

**FIS leader threatens elections**

PARIS (R) — A top leader of Algeria's banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) threatened, in a message made public on Friday, to block presidential elections promised next year by Algerian President Lamia Zeroual. FIS leader Ali Belhadj said he had written the message, addressed to Mr. Zeroual and filled with bitter sarcasm and venom, from his "forced residency" in Algeria. In it he defended his refusal to urge fundamentalist militants to refrain from violence in Algeria in order to facilitate a dialogue between them and the Algerian authorities. "It is not the mission of a Muslim to give advice to the people which profits a tyrant," he said in the message. The letter, dated Tuesday, was Mr. Belhadj's first public comment since Mr. Zeroual last week said his attempt at dialogue with Mr. Belhadj and fellow FIS leader Abassi Madani had failed. Mr. Belhadj also appeared to contradict reports he had been returned to prison, saying he was writing from his "forced residency" in Algeria. In September, he and Mr. Madani had been transferred from prison, where they were serving 12-year terms, to house arrest.

**Berlusconi is top earner in parliament**

Volume 18 Number 5765



# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

AMMAN SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1994, JUMADA ALTHANIA 6-7, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

# Israel to begin pullout in two weeks

## King visits Tiberias, exchanges ratified treaties with Rabin

Jordan wants Arafat 'to succeed. Whether he believes it or not, it is up to him ...'

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

RAEL IS EXPECTED to start withdrawing its forces to the ceasefire lines of 1967 in two weeks, following the completion of the ratification process and exchange of related documents between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Information Minister Jawaad Al Anani said a joint Jordan-Israeli committee is expected to meet this week to work out the technicalities of the withdrawal of forces from demarcated areas of borders.

Mr. Anani said another joint committee will also set to work out the details of mechanism of pumping water to Jordan from the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers. "The committee will meet this week, and hopefully the process of withdrawal will be a next week," Dr. Anani told the Jordan Times.

Under the peace treaty, which was ratified by the Jordanian parliament and made into law by the King a week ago, Israel will withdraw to the ceasefire lines of 1967 west along the borders with Jordan pending the resolution of the frontier. It will also pump in 50 billion cubic metres of water.

Jordan will immediately start to make arrangements for another 165 million

cubic metres soon in recognition of Jordan's share of the water sources of the region.

In a solemn 15-minute ceremony held on the shores of scenic Lake Tiberias, the King, paying his first visit to Israel, and Mr. Rabin signed the documents of ratification and exchanged them.

In brief comments to the small ceremony attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and a handful of senior Israeli leaders including Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the King and Mr. Rabin spoke of a warm peace between Jordan and Israel.

Both leaders also expressed hope that other tracks in the three-year-old Middle East peace process would also see similar progress achieved in the Jordanian-Israeli track.

"This is an honourable peace, a balanced peace, a peace that will last because from the first instance it was our determination to make it so," said the King, who was greeted by more than 2,000 cheering Israeli schoolchildren waving Jordanian and Israeli flags on his way from a helicopter pad to the marble Beit Gibrial mansion on the southern tip of Lake Tiberias, also known as the Sea of Galilee.

Against the backdrop of the waters that the Bible says Jesus Christ walked on, the



His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Thursday sign the documents of ratification of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty in Tiberias (Photo by Yousef Allan)

King said the peoples of Jordan and Israel were "on the threshold of a peace which I hope generations to come will cherish, protect and enjoy."

Addressing the audience, which included Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shakher, Political Adviser Marwan Al Qassem, Information Minister Jawaad Al Anani, and Michael Hamarneh, director of the Crown Prince's office, as well as Israeli opposition Likud lead-

er David Levy and a large number of journalists, Mr. Rabin said: "I believe this is the most beautiful thing, the most beautiful act — to end not the state of war, but to establish the structure of peace, to build the relations of peace."

Speaking only a few kilometres from the occupied Golan Heights that loomed in the skyline as a reminder of the need to make peace with Syria, Mr. Rabin expressed hope that the Jordanian-

Israeli peace treaty would encourage Syria and Lebanon to follow suit.

"I hope it will serve as an example to the other countries with which we negotiate — peace, Syria and Lebanon, and that they will be convinced by what we have achieved together. Your Majesty, and they will follow what has been done between our two countries, between you, Your Majesty, and myself," said the Israeli prime minister.

(Continued on page 2)

## Rabin: Settlements are a burden

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin says pursuing the next phase of Israel's peace agreement with the Palestinians would be complicated because of Jewish settlements spread through the West Bank. Mr. Rabin, in comments broadcast on Israeli radio Friday, alluded to the talks set for Nov. 21-22 with the Palestinians over expanding autonomy into the West Bank. "The settlements in heavily populated areas of the West Bank are a tremendous security burden on the army," Mr. Rabin said. "When we reach a settlement it will be even more complicated because the settlement planning there wasn't done with security of the residents in mind," Mr. Rabin added. Mr. Rabin's remarks stirred immediate angry reactions among settlers. Mr. Rabin also said "the gaps are wide" in U.S.-mediated peace talks with Syria and that only in eight or nine months "we will know where stand."

## Bike-bomber kills 3 Israeli soldiers

NETZERIM JUNCTION, Gaza Strip (Agencies) — A bike-bomber on a bicycle killed three Israeli soldiers and wounded seven people Friday on the Gaza Strip to avenge the murder of an Islamic Jihad leader.

Israeli military Chief of Staff Ehud Barak said the

attackers were on duty at an army post on a road junction 10 kilometres from a Jewish settlement called Netzerim.

Bar more members of the army forces were hurt, two seriously. General Barak

arrived at the scene to the teenaged cyclist

kilos of explosive strapped to his body, rode into the

attackers were hit

by Israeli gunfire after the Gaza City doctors said

had a bullet in his back

the others left hospital

treatment for slight

several Palestinians hurt in

explosion were heli-

copters to hospitals, the

officer said, but the exact num-

ber of wounded was unclear.

Four armed guerrillas claimed responsibility for the blast at a Gaza City memorial ceremony for Hani Abed, a senior Islamic Jihad figure, in a Nov. 2 car bomb which all Palestinian factions blamed on Israel.

Israel's army radio said the bomber was 17 years old and had been a student of Abed, who taught science.

The guerrillas declared that the Islamic Jihad had carried out "a heroic military operation" and warned of further killings.

"This is the first act of revenge for Hani Abed," they said as supporters fired celebration shots in the air. Israeli and American flags were burnt.

The blast shattered massive concrete anti-bomb shields and damaged several cars.

The bombing occurred at one of the largest crossroads on Gaza's north-south highway, jointly patrolled by

Israel and Palestinian troops.

Israel maintains a checkpoint

there to monitor traffic

approaching Netzerim, a tiny

settlement that the Palestinians want removed. Palestinian police are stationed several dozen metres nearby.

The bomber apparently took advantage of confusion caused by a planned protest at the intersection by Palestinian demonstrators demanding that Israel lift restrictions on Gazan workers entering its territory imposed after a series of violent attacks.

Both Israeli and Palestini-

an officials seemed at a loss

on dealing with such lightening strikes where their responsibilities overlap. They planned a meeting late Friday on the issue.

"There are no guarantees

for anything in life," said Gen. Barak, after inspecting the site. "When a suicide bomber manages to reach such a place there is no sure way to prevent there being victims."

The explosion occurred in

an area of the Gaza Strip still

controlled by Israeli forces.

The army pulled out of most

of the Strip when the Pales-

tinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) took over in May.

The army stayed in the

location to protect Netzerim,

an isolated Jewish settlement about 200 metres down the road. From Netzerim, with 180 residents, the outskirts of Gaza City with its 300,000 Palestinian residents are clearly visible.

Israeli troops and PLO

police gather at the junction

for joint patrols. Leaflets after Abed's death threatened to attack a joint Israel-PLO patrol.

Israeli opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu called for halting peace talks with the Palestinians on extending the six-month-old Gaza-Jericho autonomy to the

West Bank.

"The first thing is to stop

the process that leads to giving them more territory," he said on Israel Radio. "The

terror is meant to bring about

more Israeli concessions, to

achieve the common goal of

(PLO leader Yasser) Arafat and Hamas to destroy Israel."

At a downtown Gaza City rally, Islamic Jihad leader Sheikh Abdulkarim Shami said the suicide attack was in retaliation for the death of Abed.

At the rally of 3,000 outside Abed's house, masked men fired automatic rifles and the announcer bellowed: "This is one of our first responses in answer to the death of Hani Abed."

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## Israel, Jordan and PLO aim for water charter

ATHENS (Agencies) — Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians have agreed to launch talks aimed at drawing up a "water charter" to manage vital water resources in the Middle East.

The agreement between three of the leading players in the Middle East peace process was announced after three days of multilateral talks on water resources.

Talks coordinator Richard Lebaron, director of Near Eastern affairs with the U.S. State Department, said the joint working group on water had taken "substantial steps forward."

"The three parties agreed to begin discussions on principles or guidelines for cooperation on water issues," he told a press conference.

Israeli delegation chief Avraham Katz-Oz told AFP a final agreement on regional water-sharing would need the participation of Syria and Lebanon, which are both boycotting multilateral talks.

"We call them more and more to join us, their empty chairs are there and we need them for a global solution," he said.

Multilateral talks sponsored by the U.S. and Russia were launched at the 1991 Middle East peace conference in Madrid. Special committee are dealing with five areas: water resources, economic cooperation, the environment, arms control and refugees.

A total of 160 experts representing 45 delegations, including 13 Middle East countries, are taking part in multilateral talks on water.

Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian delegations already set up a group in Oslo last July to study the judicial and institutional aspects of water management.

A European report presented here stresses that water is of vital importance to

lasting peace in the Middle East, which suffers from severe water shortages.

Between 1990 and 2020, water resources will fall by 390 cubic metres per person per year to 250 cubic metres in Israel, by 500 cubic metres in the West Bank and by 143 cubic metres (185 cubic yards) to 45 in Gaza.

Palestinians announced last April the creation of a water agency, but it has not yet been set up.

"We are disappointed to see the Palestinians incapable of overcoming their problems of authority when it comes to such crucial resources as water, and we hope the problem of cholera will help them to realise this," said one European delegation chief who asked not to be named.

Hospitals in Gaza had diagnosed 26 cases of cholera Wednesday. Palestinians said the sources of the bacteria had not been identified.

Mr. Lebaron said there had also been progress in the creation of a regional data bank on water, which would cost \$12 million and take three years to set up.

The United States and Canada had already offered funding.

Nine delegations also offered training courses for regional experts. Luxembourg offered to finance an experimental farm irrigated by treated salt water in Gaza.

Meanwhile host country Greece said it would study surplus water resources in the Mediterranean region and ways to transport them to the Middle East.

The office of the State Department spokesman on Wednesday released the following statement by Christine Shelly, acting spokesman:

The Middle East Multi-lateral Working Group on

## More Arab-Americans enter U.S. Congress in elections

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The ranks of Arab-Americans in the U.S. Congress have increased to five in this off-year general elections, which saw the Republican Party take control of the two legislatures for the first time in four decades.

At the local level, at least 13 more won office Nov. 8 in the nationwide elections, including four state senators and six state representatives. The fate of six others have not yet been determined while eight have failed in their bid for election.

The two houses of the U.S. Congress, which rarely meet together except on major occasions, like the State of the Union address from the president at the beginning of each year, is formed of a 100-man Senate, whose members serve for six years and a 435-member House of Representatives, which is reelected every two years.

Spencer Abraham, a Republican from Michigan, became the fourth Arab-American to win a seat in the Senate. Four other Arab-Americans were elected to the House of Representatives. They join the reelected in

former Vice President Dan Quayle, who is now believed to have presidential aspirations.

A conservative Republican who was instrumental in the founding of the "Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy," Mr. Abraham is a second-generation Arab-American. He and his wife are the parents of twin daughters born over a year ago.

Mr. LaHood is not a newcomer to the U.S. Congress. At present, he is the chief of staff for Representative Bob Michel, the retiring House Minority Leader and whose seat LaHood will be occupying next year.

A one-time state representative in the Illinois General Assembly, the 49-year-old LaHood lists economic development and constituent services as his key interests.

Mr. Baldacci, whose mother is of Lebanese origin, has been serving as a state senator in the Maine legislature for the last 12 years. Born in Bangor, Maine, 39 years ago, the state senator runs with his brothers, the family restaurant business.

The 42-year-old Abraham, son of an autoworker for General Motors and a graduate of the Harvard Law School, has occupied several key positions in the Republican Party in his own state and nationally. He was the co-chair of the National Republican Congressional Committee when Republicans won 10 new seats in the 1992 general elections, in spite of the defeat of former President George Bush.

More significantly, he was also deputy chief of staff for

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Tel. 610740; Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632765; St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590; Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440; De la Salle Church Tel. 661757; Terrassants Church Tel. 622366; Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

### PRAYER TIMES

Fair (Sunrise) Dhuhr (Asr) Magrib (Isha) 18:00 (18:20)

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be sunny and warm with winds south-easterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min/Max. temp.

Amman ..... 7 / 21

Aqaba ..... 14 / 28

Deserts ..... 6 / 22

Jordan Valley ..... 15 / 28

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 20, Aqaba 27 Humidity readings: Amman 36 per cent, Aqaba 36 per cent.

Food Control Centre ..... 637111

## Israel to begin pullout in 2 weeks

(Continued from page 1)

peace with the Kingdom.

Earlier, the formal exchange of the documents of ratification of the treaty, which was signed by Dr. Mafali and Mr. Rabin in a glittering ceremony attended by U.S. President Bill Clinton on Oct. 26 in the Wadi Araba desert, only took a few minutes.

Approximately 160 officials representing 45 delegations from around the world, including 13 parties from the Middle East, attended the meeting. The United States held the gavel for the meeting.

The working group took substantial steps forward with its major ongoing projects:

— The Omanis efforts to create a regional desalination research centre in Muscat were strongly endorsed by all the regional parties.

— The group identified specific sites and next steps for the Israeli-led project on rehabilitating municipal water supply systems.

— Nine delegations were to conduct courses related to previously identified, specific needs for expertise in water matters in the Middle East.

— The group endorsed a detailed plan for comparable regional water data banks. The United States and Canada offered financial support for the project.

— The Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians agreed to begin discussion on principles or guidelines for cooperation on water issues.

— The group agreed to undertake a German-led study that will analyse the various options for enhancing water supply in the region.

— The group agreed on the need to create greater public awareness of the multilateral negotiations, and particularly to follow up on the Casablanca economic summit to further involve the private sector in the work of the water resources working group.

Following the ceremony, the King and the delegation accompanying him held about two hours of talks with

Mr. Rabin and other Israeli leaders.

Dr. Anan said the talks went "very well" and dealt with the "formalities" of implementing the peace treaty, but he would not elaborate on details.

During that meeting Mr. Rabin assured Mr. Arafat that Israel intended to speed up the process of expanding Palestinian self-rule to the rest of the West Bank after the town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip went under Palestinian autonomy in May.

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— "Arafat may be visiting Jordan and meeting King Hussein soon," the official said.

The PLO chairman wants to ease strains caused by the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty which give the Hashemite Kingdom a role in supervising Islamic holy places in Jerusalem.

Following the talks, the King, who returned home after a 24-hour visit, told Israeli reporters at Beit Gabriel that he would visit Jerusalem "in the very near future" but would not set a date.

Standing next to the King, Mr. Rabin said His Majesty was welcome to visit Jerusalem "any time he pleases" and the King nodded the agreement.

In response to a question on a telephone call he received from Palestine National Authority (PNA) Chairman Yasser Arafat on Wednesday, the King said: "I am assured him that many of us want him to succeed" in his efforts to realise his peace accord with Israel. "Whether he believes it or not, it's up to him, but this is really the truth," the King said.

PLO officials said there was urgent need to coordinate with Jordan on other issues such as water, Palestinian refugees and trade.

## Peace with Syria and Lebanon soon — Beilin

WASHINGTON (USIA) —

"We are going to have peace with Syria," Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told a Brookings Institution press conference Thursday.

"Unless there is a very big surprise," he said, "the peace process is irreversible."

The main issue separating Israel and Syria remains the Golan Heights. While acknowledging that the question of security poses difficulties for both sides, Beilin said "it is not insurmountable."

Once an agreement with Damascus can be worked out, Beilin is confident that peace with Lebanon will soon follow. Although he did not link Syria explicitly to Hizbullah, the pro-Iranian fundamentalists, he said that an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon could take place only after Hizbullah units in the region no longer pose a threat. He made clear, however, that Israel was anxious to pull out of the region. "We don't want to remain in south Lebanon," he said.

Mr. Beilin rejected the idea that Israel has deliberately asked Arafat to do too much by insisting that he subdue Hamas, the Gaza-based Palestinian fundamentalists, he said that an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon could take place only after Hizbullah units in the region no longer pose a threat. He made clear, however, that Israel was anxious to pull out of the region. "We don't want to remain in south Lebanon," he said.

In the final analysis, however, the region's most pressing concern may be demographic, not political. "The most important problem in our part of the world," Mr. Beilin said, "is that the increase of population is much greater than the increase in the economy."

According to Mr. Beilin, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has been seeking to circumvent the agreement by calling for elections to national office — president and parliament — instead of the executive council which

both sides agreed to during the present interim period.

Israel is not ready to accept what Mr. Arafat wants in this regard, he said. To change the rules in such manner is "very, very difficult," and he predicted that negotiations could drag on for a long time if the Palestinians persist.

Mr. Beilin also rejected the idea that Israel has deliberately asked Arafat to do too much by insisting that he subdue Hamas, the Gaza-based Palestinian fundamentalists, he said that an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon could take place only after Hizbullah units in the region no longer pose a threat. He made clear, however, that Israel was anxious to pull out of the region. "We don't want to remain in south Lebanon," he said.

Mr. Beilin conceded that relations remain difficult with the Palestinians and that the two sides' views differ considerably on the scope of elections called for in last year's Oslo agreement.

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## Senior Iranian cleric lashes out at writers

NICOSIA (AP) — A senior Iranian cleric Friday lashed out at a group of the nation's pre-eminent writers who last month demanded an end to official harassment and censorship.

Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, head of the Islamic Propaganda Organisation and a member of several key parliamentary and official organisations, said those writers wanted nothing more than to corrupt the nation's youth.

"You are the kind of people who want the freedom to translate sexy Western books and put them in the hands of the young. This is what your hearts are pining for," he said in a weekly sermon at Tehran University.

Last month 134 writers and poets wrote an open letter to the government criticising the "anti-democratic practices" of Iran's Islamic regime.

Iranian intellectuals, ranging from filmmakers to university professors, have in the past criticised the restrictions on freedom of expression imposed by the government, often at great risk to themselves.

Iran has set an elaborate border crossing point on their side of the bridge. Located on a 10-acre area, the facilities bear a look of permanent presence.

The first group of Israeli tourists is expected to cross on Sunday. It was not immediately known when the first Jordanian traveller to Israel would be using the crossing.

Although the bridge, a steel structure built by the Royal Engineering Corps of the Jordanian Armed Forces, looks too narrow, it can accommodate trucks and buses and thus serve Jordanian traders. Eventually, the bridge would be converted into a concrete structure with four lanes for traffic.

The first group of Israeli tourists was the first response to the letter by an official.

Last month the English-language Tehran Times said that Iran "does not pretend to have a government that tolerates unlimited freedom of the press where writers, poets and others are allowed to write unsocial, immoral, seditious articles or print deviant, immoral pictures and the like."

It said Iran was proud that no such freedom existed and violators of those norms would be prosecuted.

The decree "will remain in force as long as that man is still alive," Ayatollah Jannati said, adding that Iran's writers were doing everything they could to have the order revoked.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR



### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Ihsan Al Asmar ..... 600254

Dr. Yousef Al Sharif ..... 602531

Dr. Yousef Sammour ..... 615648

Dr. Khalidoun Kleib ..... 616715

Firas pharmacy ..... 661912

Ferdousi pharmacy ..... 778336

Al-Azhar Pharmacy ..... 632836

Najah Pharmacy ..... 634272

Al-Salam pharmacy ..... 636730

Yacoub pharmacy ..... 649445

Shamsiyan pharmacy ..... 637600

Najib pharmacy ..... 647632

IRBD: Dr. Fawaz Al Qadi ..... 249743

Alquds pharmacy ..... (-)

ZARQA: Dr. Yousef Abu Sa'd ..... 890110

Khalidh pharmacy ..... 985417

EMERGENCIES

Electric Power Company ..... 636361

RJ Flight Information ..... 06-33300

Queen Alia Int'l. Airport ..... 06-33300

Food Control Centre ..... 637111

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## Crown Prince receives calls from Qatari prince, Netanyahu

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday received a telephone call and a message from Sheikh Mohammad Ben Hamad Al Thani, brother of the Qatari leader, congratulating him on the signing and ratification of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

Sheikh Al Thani praised Prince Hassan's role in leading the negotiations, saying

he received a telephone call from Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the Israeli Likud Party, who congratulated the Crown Prince on the peace treaty.

Mr. Netanyahu welcomed Thursday's visit by His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to Israel on the occasion of inaugurating the border crossing at Sheikh Hussein Bridge.

Prince Hassan also re-

## Yemeni minister ends visit after signing memorandums

### Bilateral cooperation to include training

AMMAN (Petra) — Yemeni Minister of Social Affairs Mohammad Al Batni Friday left Jordan, concluding a several-day visit to the Kingdom during which he met with His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and senior Jordanian officials.

The Yemeni minister's talks in Amman covered Jordanian-Yemeni cooperation in social development and vocational training, in addition to discussing the possibility of utilising Jordan's experience in these two fields.

On Thursday, the Jordanian and Yemeni sides signed three memorandums of understanding covering social development, vocational training, special education and social security areas.

The memos were signed on the Jordanian side by Minister of Social Development Mohammad Squer and Minister of Labour Khaled Ghzawi, while on the Yemeni side they were signed by Mr. Batni, Director General of the Social Security Corporation, Mohammad Al Attar and Director General of the Social Securities and Pension Corporation, Ahmad Al Attar.

The first memorandum provides for cooperation in the social development field.

Under the memo, Jordan will help Yemen in such areas as rehabilitation of the handicapped, training of volunteer groups, local community development, income generating projects and special education.

Jordan will also train Yemeni cadres in organising administrative and financial work and preparing training programmes for women in Yemen.

It will also help establish a specialised unit for income generating projects for women.

Under the memorandum, Jordan will also allocate several seats in special education institutions for handicapped persons from Yemen.

It will provide five yearly scholarships at Princess Rahma College for Social Services to five students from Yemen.

The second memorandum organises cooperation between both countries in the areas of labour, including occupational and health safety, labour, culture, planning of labour force, and marketing expertise to Yemen.

Assisted by the

Yemeni experts will

conduct training courses

for Yemeni leaders in

both Jordan and Yemen,

and will design and imple-

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and programmes for

Yemeni officials.

The two sides also

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Also Thursday cooperation

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Mr. Batni said his

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## N. Korea says U.S. threats could endanger nuclear pact

TOKYO (R) — North Korea warned Friday that a historic nuclear accord with the United States would be jeopardized if Washington threatened military action against the Communist state.

Citing a statement by U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry that Washington was prepared to use military force against North Korea if it threatened the "vital national interests" of the United States, the official North Korean daily *Rodong Sinmun* said:

"Perry's argument may create confrontation and distrust between the DPRK (North Korea) and the United States and hamper the implementation of the agreement between them."

The statement was carried by the official Korean Central News Agency, monitored in Tokyo.

"His argument reveals his dislike of the framework agreement between the DPRK and the United States," the daily said without making clear when Mr.

Perry made his remarks.

Last month Mr. Perry said during a visit to Seoul that the United States was not considering a reduction in its troops stationed in the South.

"The level of our military forces are determined by the conventional military threat from North Korea and we can only consider a reduction in them at such a time as we see a significant reduction in that threat," he said.

The United States and North Korea signed an agreement last month, setting aside four decades of hostility and saying they were convinced the hard-voiced nuclear deal shaped in Geneva would bring an era of peace to East Asia.

Under the so-called "framework accord", North Korea will cancel a nuclear energy programme suspected of having a secret weapons component and replace it with safer, advanced technologies from the West.

"It is a well known fact that the United States has long since threatened and en-

croached on the economic interests of the DPRK," the North Korean newspaper said.

"No military threat can work on the DPRK... if the conservative forces of the U.S. take the line of confrontation, the U.S. will get nothing good," it added.

About 36,000 U.S. military personnel are stationed in South Korea facing North Korea's one million-strong troops across one of the world's last cold war divides. South Korea has 655,000 armed forces of its own.

The United Nations nuclear agency said Friday it would begin fresh contacts with North Korea Monday on verifying a nuclear freeze agreed between Pyongyang and Washington.

The IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) intends shortly to inform North Korea about the measures it deems appropriate to continue to implement safeguards and to monitor the freeze... and to initiate these measures without delay," a

statement said.

"We will be making contact with North Korean representatives in Vienna on Monday," said IAEA spokesman David Kyd.

Mr. Kyd said the agency intended to send a small team of inspectors "to prepare the way for the work that needs to be accomplished."

Meanwhile, North Korea Friday officially turned down South Korea's offer for expanded economic cooperation, but the South took the rebuff in stride, saying it would keep options open for inter-Korean exchanges.

The Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherlands in Pyongyang denounced in vitriolic terms the offer by President Kim Young-Sam as a ruse, and demanded an apology from Mr. Kim for his "confrontational policy."

The committee accused Mr. Kim Young-Sam of unilaterally freezing an inter-Korean dialogue due to a row over the North's so-called "nuclear issue."



People at a market here check newspapers to read about the record landslide victory of Sri Lanka's presidential elections. Mrs. Kumaratunga won with an historic margin (AFP photo)

## Sri Lanka mother-daughter combination in top political jobs to set world first

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lanka is set to get the world's first mother and daughter team for prime minister and president following the assassination of her prime minister husband, Solomon Bandaranaike, in 1959.

The cabinet has agreed to back President-Elect Kumaratunga's mother, Sirima Bandaranaike, 78, as the new premier, an official close to the family said.

The decision was taken following a signature campaign by two ministers urging Mrs. Kumaratunga, who assumed office as the island nation's fourth head of state Saturday, to name her mother as figurehead premier, the officials said.

"Cabinet feels that Mrs. B (as Sirima Bandaranaike is affectionately known) deserves to be the prime minister considering her contribution to the party," an official said.

Political observers here believe that the world may witness a historic occasion Sunday when Mr. Bandaranaike would be sworn in as prime minister before her daughter, who won a landslide victory at Wednesday's presidential poll.

But agency officials also said they expected the downward trend in foreign sales agreements to continue in the near term.

## Pentagon: Arms sales drop

WASHINGTON (R) — Foreign military sales of U.S. weapons dropped dramatically to \$12.9 billion in fiscal year 1994 from \$33.2 billion in the previous year, the Defense Department said.

And in a dark forecast for big U.S. aerospace firms, department officials also predicted that those foreign arms sales will continue to drop over the next few years.

The Defense Security Assistance Agency said the reason for the steep plunge in fiscal 1994, which ended on Sept. 30, was that U.S. arms sales were unusually high to Middle East countries in fiscal 1993 following the 1991 Gulf war.

But agency officials also said they expected the downward trend in foreign sales agreements to continue in the near term.

"They are estimating that sales will average between \$9 billion and \$10.5 billion per year through fiscal year 1997," the Pentagon said in a statement.

That prediction not good for big U.S. aerospace firms such as Lockheed Corp. and McDonnell Douglas Corp. and other defence companies, who are looking toward more foreign sales as the U.S. defence budget shrinks.

Political observers here believe that the world may witness a historic occasion Sunday when Mr. Bandaranaike would be sworn in as prime minister before her daughter, who won a landslide victory at Wednesday's presidential poll.

But the family is plagued by squabbling between Mrs.

## Sinn Fein condemns N.Ireland killing

BELFAST (R) — Sinn Fein, standing on the threshold of its first official talks with the British government, tried Friday to limit the damage caused by a killing blamed on its guerrilla supporters in the IRA.

Pat Doherty, vice-president of Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, said Thursday's killing during a robbery of a post office was "wrong and should not have

happened."

Mr. Doherty said he was sure the killing, blamed by police on suspected members of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), had not been carried out by the group and was convinced the guerrillas were sticking to their Sept. 1 ceasefire.

"Any military operation of any nature should not be carried out during this ceasefire."

"It is the commitment

that the IRA has given and I am convinced that is the commitment they are prepared to stand over."

The killing in Newry, 60 kilometres south of Belfast, was the first since the IRA began a ceasefire in its 25-year war to end British rule of Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland's Royal Ulster Constabulary said it had arrested two men and was searching for a third.

## Republicans could keep Clinton guessing next 2 years

WASHINGTON (AP) — You can almost imagine them spinning off page one, these headlines from President Bill Clinton's worst nightmare: "Chairman D'Amato reopens Whitewater inquiry," or "1994 crime bill gutted," or "tax cut face Clinton veto."

The mood at the White House is surprisingly stoic following the Republican takeover of Congress, but some aides can't help but read the worst in the whipping at times.

"It sends chills," one adviser said Thursday. "Cold chills."

Mr. Clinton, stunned by Tuesday's midterm elections, promised to press forward with his economic programme and move toward the political centre in the remaining two years of his term. He accepted some blame for Tuesday's defeat and extended an open hand to Republicans.

But he could not answer the most unsettling question: Just what does the Republican Party have in store for him?

"A lot of us haven't had a lot of sleep and we're going to need a few days to digest all these results," Mr. Clinton said Wednesday. "I think we have to first of all... take a little nap. Take a little sleep, take a little rest."

He has plenty to keep him awake at night.

One thing sure to make him restless: The thought of Sen. Alfonse D'Amato chairing the Senate Banking Committee and overseeing the Whitewater hearings. As the banking minority member of the panel last summer, the New York Republican led the assault on Mr. Clinton's failed Arkansas business dealings.

Sen. D'Amato said Thursday that hearings would resume early next year and he

would not hesitate to use his subpoena power against uncooperative witnesses. But, he said, "this will not be a witch hunt."

Privately, Clinton aides fear Sen. D'Amato will do his best to keep the controversy alive through the 1996 elections. And the scrutiny may not stop with Whitewater.

House Speaker-to-be Newt Gingrich, who called Mr. Clinton an enemy of normal people during the midterm campaign, also talked ominously about Republican subpoena power in a new era on Capitol Hill.

In other worst-case scenarios:

— Republicans keep their promise and pass a tax cut out don't propose a way to pay for it. Mr. Clinton would face two bad options: Veto a politically popular bill or approve it at the expense of his deficit-reduction plans.

— The 1994 crime bill is reopened, allowing Republicans to once again attack prevention programmes as pork-barrel spending. A problem with this scenario, the White House hopes, is that many communities have already received money from the crime bill and will fight any cuts.

— Sen. Jesse Helms from North Carolina, incoming chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, uses his new power to slash foreign aid, perhaps gutting the agency for international development.

— Judicial and executive branch appointments, which Mr. Clinton made nearly unfettered in the Democratic Congress, are cleared each and every time by Senate

Republicans.

— Health care reform, ripped apart by conservative Democrats and Republicans this year, gets nothing more than symbolic attention in the next two years.

— You could spin a worst-case, middle-case and best-case scenario, but we have no idea how they intend to handle themselves now that they have a majority in both houses," said Deputy Chief of Staff Harold Ickes. "Hopefully, they will act responsibly."

Stunned by this political nightmare, Mr. Clinton is struggling to convince voters he is the true champion of what they saw in the GOP, Tuesday: Small government, political reform and community approach to his domestic policy, from health care to crime and welfare.

One result: Two days after the election the Justice Department dramatically reversed itself Thursday and sided with conservative groups on child pornography.

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— We're going to look at everything," adviser George Stephanopoulos said. "It's a very different world." A world, according to today's headlines, with Republicans

in charge.

Meanwhile, Republicans

are busily setting their

goals for a new, more conservative U.S. Congress.

Republican lawmakers

likely to chair committees in

the Congress that convenes in

January say their landslide

was a popular call to rein in a

government that has become

too big, too costly and too

unresponsive. And for the

first time in 40 years, their

control of both houses will

likely be exercised by Repub-

licans.

The man who will probably

chair the House Ways and

Means Committee said

Thursday that one of his

long-range goals is to eliminate the income tax altogether, replacing it with perhaps a

national sales tax.

Over 43 million U.S. military documents go public

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton signed an order to release 43 million pages of classified war records in keeping with his promise of less government secrecy. "A wealth of insight into some of the most important military events of our recent history... will be of great value to military historians, researchers, veterans and ordinary citizens," Mr. Clinton said. Within 30 days, almost all of the documents from World War II held in the National Archives will be declassified, along with 23 million pages on the Vietnam War and Naval and Air Force operations. Another 325 million pages of documents in the National Archives and hundreds of millions held by federal agencies will also be reviewed for declassification.

Swiss to vote on legalisation of heroin

BERNE (R) — A coalition of Swiss pressure groups said Wednesday it had collected enough signatures to force a national referendum on the legalisation of the use of heroin and other hard drugs in Switzerland. The working group "drogenlegalisierung" (Droleg), a coalition of legal, social, medical and youth groups, said the initiative called for the purchase, possession, consumption and cultivation of narcotics to be decriminalised. It also demands the introduction of a programme of state-controlled drug distribution.

"Droleg does not expect to solve the drug problem with its initiative but is convinced there is no other way to normalise and reduce the drug problem to acceptable proportions than with its proposed solution in the initiative," it said. Although the use and possession of hard drugs is illegal in Switzerland, authorities in a number of cities have tolerated open drug markets, where dealers and users meet to buy and sell drugs, for a number of years. In Switzerland's largest open drug scene in Zurich, over 1,000 addicts and dealers gather daily at an abandoned railway siding to deal in heroin, cocaine and methadone and to shoot up into needle-scarred arms, legs and necks. However, responding to public pressure and an upsurge of drug-related violence this summer, Zurich authorities have said they plan to clear the city's drug scene.

American fined for calling Kenyans niggers

NAIROBI (AFP) — A magistrate here has fined a white American engineer \$150 for calling Kenyan immigration officials "stupid niggers," local newspapers reported Friday. Steven Craig was charged with calling immigration officials at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta Airport "stupid niggers being colonised by Asians" when he arrived from London Wednesday.

Over 43 million  
U.S. military  
documents go  
public

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton set an order to release 43,000 pages of "secretive war records" in keeping with a promise of less secrecy. A wealth of information about military events in recent history will be of great value to military historians, researchers and ordinary citizens, Clinton said. Within 20 days, almost all of the documents from World War II, the National Archives will declassify about 100 million pages on the Air War and Naval and Army operations. Another 10 million pages of documents in the National Archives' hundreds of collections will be declassified, agency officials reviewed for the Associated Press.

Swiss to vote  
on legalisation of  
heroin

BERNE (R) — A vote of Swiss pressure on Wednesday it had gathered enough signatures for a national referendum on the legalisation of heroin, cocaine and other hard narcotics. The Swiss group driving the campaign, social medical and drug groups, said the referendum for the purchase, possession, consumption and cultivation of narcotics was determined. It demands the introduction of a programme of controlled drug sales. "People don't want to see the drug trade flourish," its initiator said. "We are determined to end the drug business." The proposal has been proposed by the Swiss and drug groups, and the Swiss government has supported it.

Politicians pointed out that both polls fall within the statistical margin of error of around five per cent which means that the result could go either way.

Bosnian Serb soldiers tie up Muslim prisoners of war near the front line, around the small village of Dubovac, some 5 kilometres south of the western Bosnian town of Bihać.

Bosnian Serbs are retaking some positions in western Bosnia following gains by the Bosnian Army (AP photo)

## Swedish EU referendum is too close to call

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden's 6.5 million voters will be crucial to a similar referendum due to be held in neighbouring Norway on Nov. 28, where opposition has been strongest.

However two opinion polls published in Oslo Friday showed for the first time since April that Norwegians could vote for membership if Sweden does.

One poll, in the *Dagens Nyheter* daily, showed supporters and opponents tied at 40 per cent and the undecided at a remarkably high 20 per cent just 48 hours before voting begins.

Another poll, by the SIFO Institute, published in the *Göteborgs-Posten* daily, gave supporters 42 per cent of the vote and opponents 39 per cent.

Politicians pointed out that both polls fall within the statistical margin of error of around five per cent which means that the result could go either way.

he said.

Sweden's pro-European political and business establishment, slow to realise anti-EU supporters had grabbed the initiative, has launched a public offensive to try to secure the 20 per cent of voters who have still to make up their minds.

"How can half of the Swedish electorate be prepared to vote against membership?" the liberal *Dagens Nyheter* daily wrote in an editorial Friday.

The pro-EU campaign has failed to impress average Swedes outside the main cities, who fear the imposition of rule from Brussels will dash into Sweden's high standard of living and comprehensive welfare state.

"Sweden is suffering from a superiority complex. We fear integration will drag us down to a European average, that outside influences jeopardise Sweden's welfare

and living standards," *Dagens Nyheter* said.

Finland voted last month to join the EU with a 57 to 43 per cent majority. But EU opponents have forced a postponement of the parliamentary vote on adhesion until next week.

Opponents in Finland have said they hope a Swedish "no" vote will persuade enough deputies to change their minds.

A two-thirds majority is needed for Finland to adhere to the EU.

In Sweden, all parties have said they will respect the referendum decision.

Financial markets, volatile ahead of the referendum, are expected to swing violently in Sweden when they reopen Monday morning, whatever the outcome.

In case of a yes vote, analysts predict a five per cent jump in the share market and a sharp fall in interest rates, while the crown should strengthen appreciably.

If Sweden votes no, the market reaction is expected to be even more violent, with an up to 10 per cent fall in the crown and shares predicted.

## Bosnian Serbs make new gains; leader given sweeping powers

PALE, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Bosnian Serbs gave near-dictatorial powers to their hawkish leader Friday in the expectation he can reverse their recent battlefield losses.

Reports of fierce fighting in Bihać in the north seemed to bear out Serb determination to strike back hard on the battlefield.

The Muslim-led Bosnian government may soon get relief from the U.N. arms embargo against the former Yugoslavia. Washington announced Thursday that it plans to stop enforcing the ban against the outgunned government next week.

Washington's action probably won't have much immediate impact on the battlefield, but it could cause a rift with Britain and France, which are afraid it would endanger their peacekeeping troops in Bosnia and Russia, which has strong ethnic ties to the Serbs. Russian lawmakers Friday denounced the decision.

The new fighting in the Bihać pocket coincided with the decision by the Bosnian Serb assembly to let their leader, Radovan Karadžić, act alone in waging the war, instead of convening an assembly on important decisions.

The assembly also gave Mr. Karadžić the power to declare martial law, which would give him unchecked right, for instance, to imprison draft evaders or confiscate their property.

Mr. Karadžić said special

military committees will immediately be formed in each district of Serb-held territory to govern along with civilian officials. Serbs hold 70 per cent of Bosnia.

The Bosnian Serb leader had pushed for more power in recent weeks as government forces, sometimes supported by Bosnian Croat militias, captured hundreds of miles of Serb-held territory.

Mr. Karadžić had warned that Bosnian Serbs would destroy government army formations around Bihać.

Serb military officials said government soldiers were on the run in the Bihać pocket, sandwiched between Bosnian Serb units moving over the Una River from the south and rebel Serb forces in neighbouring Croatia to the north.

Bosnian Radnički reported fierce fighting in the region, saying more than 2,000 explosions rocked the town of Bihać.

"They have been pulverising Bihać and its outskirts,"

said the report late Thursday. It said Serb shelling of the town of Cazin, Buzim, Velika Kladusa and Bosanska Krupa had killed and wounded an unspecified number of civilians.

The Serbs also were launching infantry attacks on almost all sections of the Bihać front, the broadcast said.

A U.N. official in Zagreb, Croatia, described the situation in the region as "extremely unstable" and the

level of shelling as "extremely high." Speaking on condition of anonymity, he reported increased civilian fighting and said Serb claims their troops have advanced north over Una appeared true.

The Bosnian Serbs, who have enjoyed weapons superiority, are now believed to be running short of fuel. They are also outnumbered more than 2-to-1 by combined government-Croat forces and morale is said to be low after they lost ground in a war they thought they had already won.

Serbia, the largest republic in Yugoslavia, cut off supplies to the Bosnian Serbs in August to pressure them to accept an international peace plan they have repeatedly rejected.

Under the plan, Serbs would be forced to relinquish about one-third of the more than 70 per cent of the republic they hold.

American officials maintain a 1991 U.N. arms embargo prohibiting sales to all sides in the Balkan conflict has placed the Muslims at a disadvantage.

A U.S.-sponsored resolution would be exempt Bosnia's government from the embargo within six months if the Bosnian Serbs don't sign the peace treaty.

NATO is in charge of enforcing the arms embargo. Officials at the alliance's Brussels headquarters said only two of the 18 enforcement ships are American, and that weapons tend to come by land and air.

## Jordan urges end to arms ban on Bosnia Muslims

NEW YORK (Peta) — Jordan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (U.N.) Adnan Abu Odeh Thursday voiced concern about the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and accused the U.N. Security Council of failing to address this issue properly, in accordance with the U.N. Charter.

Mr. Abu Odeh said Jordan places the human plight of

Bosnians high on the international political agenda. "Unless a peaceful settlement to this issue is reached and unless the U.N. Security Council corrects the present imbalance caused by the ban on arms to the small Bosnian Muslim people, while allowing the Serbs to equip themselves with all sources of power, the world will continue to revolve in a vicious

circle," he said.

He added that if this is to continue, then complete chapters in the U.N. Charter will have to be changed because they will be subject for questioning.

Mr. Abu Odeh said Article 51 of the U.N. Charter gives the international community the right to act individually or collectively to allow Bosnia and Herzegovina "to acquire

the means to enable them to defend themselves against the Serbs." Mr. Abu Odeh said lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia, imposed by U.N. Resolution 713 will enhance the peace process and will contribute effectively in preventing the Serbs from achieving their ambitions, and will push them to accept the principle of peaceful dialogue.

## India claims triumph over Pakistan

NEW DELHI (R) — India Friday claimed a diplomatic victory over Pakistan after Islamabad failed to win support for a U.N. resolution on Kashmir that New Delhi said violated its sovereignty.

A group of countries led by Pakistan withdrew the resolution, which urged the United Nations to help settle the bitter 47-year dispute over the Himalayan region, after it failed to rally adequate backing, diplomats said.

"India's made a point... that you cannot trifle with India," Junior Foreign Minister Salman Khurshid said in an interview to be broadcast on state television Friday evening.

"Major diplomatic victory for India," was the headline on a front-page article in the Times of India.

The general secretary of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, Krishan Lal Sharma, said Pakistan had suffered a "second diplomatic defeat."

In March, Pakistan withdrew a U.N. resolution condemning India for alleged human-rights abuses in Kashmir.

The latest resolution, drafted by members of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), noted increased tensions in the north Indian state of Jammu and

Kashmir. "You cannot just simply say that because Kashmir is full of Muslims, therefore we should simply carve it out," Mr. Khurshid said, adding that Kashmir "will never part company with India."

Kashmir has been the cause of two of the three wars India and Pakistan have fought since 1947.

New Delhi accused Pakistan of arming Kashmiri militants who launched a revolt against Indian rule in 1990. More than 17,000 people have died since then. Islamabad says it only provides political and diplomatic support.

India has rejected Pakistan's longstanding efforts to bring global pressure to bear on what New Delhi considers a bilateral dispute.

U.N. diplomats in New York said that while there was agreement on the substance of the resolution, countries disagreed over procedure. The OIC was expected to take up the Kashmir issue at a summit meeting in Morocco next month.

But Indian officials said the draft's demise strengthened New Delhi's hand as it seeks to settle the dispute in bilateral talks with Islamabad and prepares for elections in the region, the only Muslim-majority state in mostly Hindu India.

## Karachi sees new eruption of violence

KARACHI (AP) — The killing of Karachi politician Mansoor Ahmad Khan with his family has thrown a new unwanted spotlight on the growing anarchy in Pakistan's biggest city.

Two thousand troops in battle gear patrolled the streets after unidentified gunmen opened fire on Mr. Mansoor's car Thursday night, giving Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto a new reminder of the mountain she faces turning one of the most dangerous cities in the world into Pakistan's economic capital.

The Mohajir community leader was killed with his wife, a baby boy and Mr. Mansoor's sister-in-law. His father-in-law was critically injured.

As the news of the attack spread, new incidents erupted leaving at least four others dead. Heavy gunfire rang around the city of 10 million people late into the night. Dozens were brought to city hospitals with gunshot injuries, officials said.

"Mobile patrols have been increased and temporary checkposts established in all

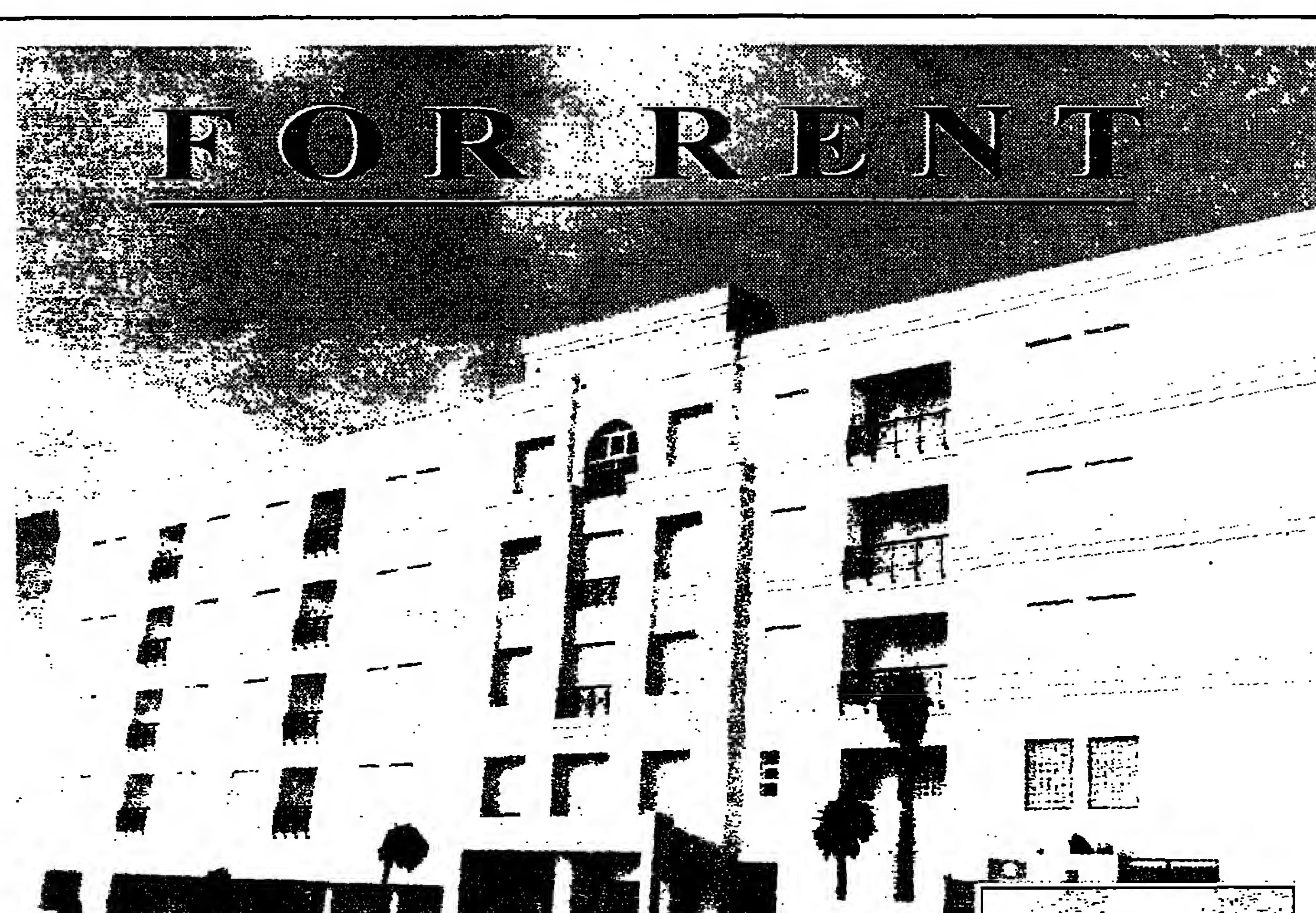
troubled spots," said an official who told of the 2,000 troops sent on the streets.

"The hard core of MQM (Majlis Qaumi Movement) is likely to respond to these killings and we can expect an escalation of target killings in coming days," he added.

Mr. Mansoor was deputy secretary general of a splinter group of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) known as MQM (Haqiqi). The MQM represents the Urdu-speaking migrants who came to Pakistan from India after the partition of the subcontinent in 1947.

The prime minister wants to make Karachi an international finance city. But she knows it will be a major challenge, analysts said.

On top of the violence, public services are appalling, roads are potholed, electricity and water cuts are frequent, corruption and incompetence is endemic.



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Amman / Jordan

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
Established 1975

الجordan times الجordan times الجordan times

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the  
Jordan Times advertising department.

## Who will pick the tab?

IT IS unconscionable that the Ministry of Health did not see fit to comment on the recent findings by a University of Jordan student researcher that insecticide and pesticide residues in Jordanian mothers' milk exceed the internationally acceptable standard. The results of the study also confirm that DDT, a long-term pesticide that adversely affects health, has been found in great amounts in mothers' milk and blood plasma. Jordanians have long suspected that the uncontrolled use of pesticides and insecticides in the country has taken untold toll on Jordanian life. With cancer in the Kingdom increasing at a rate faster than in many other countries, more and more evidence is pointing to the abuse of chemicals containing carcinogenic elements as the main culprit. Yet, neither the Ministry of Health nor the Ministry of Agriculture had much to say about the repeated accusations that they are unduly keeping their eyes shut in the face of mounting evidence that farmers are not being supervised when they dispense with their chemicals to fight off pests or insects.

The people deserve a speedy and well-documented response from the concerned governmental agencies and an effective remedy. We should stop gambling with peoples' lives by staying silent in the face of great dangers to their health. Protecting the health standards in the country involves a huge economic cost that would justify a more candid approach to such health problems and a more strict application of international health standards. For starters, we need a more forthright report on cancer in the country and its link to increased pollution and pollutants of all kinds. People are also entitled to know what the concerned ministries intend to do to curb the unlawful use of pesticides and insecticides. At the same time, the government is called upon to make officials accountable for their negligence. Otherwise the country might find itself on the verge of a health catastrophe.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily lauded Russia's efforts to end the embargo on Iraq and help defuse tension in the Gulf by arranging for Iraq's recognition of Kuwait. "We view the success of the Russian initiative as a very precious achievement that would open the way for solidarity among the Arab states and for enhancing the security and stability in the whole region," said the paper. "The Russian initiative is in line with the international legitimacy and primarily serves the Arab Nations' interests because an end to tension in the Gulf would open the door for a prosperous future for Iraq and Kuwait and the rest of the Arab World," noted the daily. Jordan, it added, has a real interest in peace and security in the east as well as peace in the west so that we can live in an oasis marked by stability and security creating the right atmosphere for prosperity. The paper urged the United States and the Western nations to help rather than impede the Russian initiative and end the embargo on Iraq as a contribution to the march of peace in the region.

Nazih Qusous a columnist for Sawt Al Shaab daily criticised a government decision taken last month banning the importation of used car tyres, noting that thousands of Jordanian car owners had been in the practice of buying new tyres. Noting that the standard of living for tens of thousands of Jordanian families has deteriorated noticeably over the past years and that many more thousands continue to live under the poverty line, the writer said that many of the car owners came from limited income groups and were in no position to buy new tyres. He said for years these groups had been in the habit of purchasing used tyres which proved to be reliable and their prices reasonable. "The government's decision to ban the importation of the used tyres is bound to benefit the wealthy agents who import the new tyres but is bound to make the poor poorer and the rich richer," said the writer. The government decision would tempt the importers of the new tyres to raise the prices even more. The writer urged the government to reconsider the ban and rescind its decision.

## Jordanian perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

## Treaty puts Jordan in better position to further peace

THE SOLEMN ceremony that took place on the shores of Lake Tiberias on Thursday when His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin exchanged the documents of ratification of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty marked the sealing of a historic step the Kingdom took. Peace with Israel has now been formally imbedded in the history of not only Jordan but of the region as a whole.

The way ahead for Jordan and Israel is clear: They have to nurture the peace they have made through dedicated efforts and, more importantly, they have to ensure that the peoples of the two countries feel the real benefits of peace in terms of their daily life. Hopefully, this would be achieved with concerned efforts, both internally and externally, and with help from our friends around the world to whom peace in the Middle East not only means an end to a disturbing preoccupation but also the freedom to exercise their economic options in a market of tens of millions of people.

Now that the Jordanian-Israeli track has been sealed with a peace treaty, the Kingdom is also free to exercise its options to help the other tracks of the peace process. In this context, the telephone call that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat made to King Hussein Wednesday evening, a few hours before the Monarch was to pay his first visit to Israel for Thursday's ceremony in Tiberias, was very telling. The call could signal a new turn in relations between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in Gaza and Jericho.

No doubt Mr. Arafat's call to the King was prompted by several reasons, foremost among them was the commitment that the Kingdom made when it said that the custodianship of the holy shrines in Jerusalem would be handed over to the Palestinians once they secured their political and territorial rights from Israel in line with the Israel-PLO declaration of principles. Another factor was indeed Mr. Rabin's promise to Mr. Arafat on Tuesday that Israel was willing to speed up the process of expanding Palestinian self-rule to the rest of the West Bank.

The Jordanian and Israeli pledges should go a long way in soothing PNA fears that Jordan and Israel were

conspiring to deprive the Palestinians of their rights, and that Israel was slowly setting the ground for handing over the West Bank to Jordan in a platter while limiting the PNA to Gaza and Jericho.

King Hussein's comments to Israeli reporters after a round of talks with Mr. Rabin at Beit Greibel in Tiberias on Thursday that Jordan wants Mr. Arafat to succeed in his quest to regain Palestinian rights and that it was up to the PNA chairman to believe or disbelieve Jordan were also very telling. His diplomatic refusal not to set a date for a visit to Jerusalem was also very revealing in that it also appeared to signal a position that Jordan was not seeking to worsen relations with the PNA by making such a visit before the Jordanian-Palestinian atmosphere is cleared of suspicions.

Hopefully, the Palestinian leadership would soon come to appreciate the sincerity with which Jordan is moving ahead, with a clear vision to help the Palestinian-Israeli track, and open a new chapter in political relations with the Kingdom.

On the Syrian and Lebanese fronts, whether Damascus and Beirut appreciate it or not, Jordan is now in a better position to help. Within themselves, whether they acknowledge it in public or not, they know it very well that if anyone should be blamed for lack of coordination then they should be the one at whom the finger should be pointed. It was not Jordan which steadfastly turned down repeated efforts to convene regular ministerial level meetings to coordinate positions in between the various rounds of peace talks with Israel and it was not Jordan which implicitly accused Syria and Lebanon of "conning" with the PLO in its secret negotiations with Israel in Oslo that led to the interim autonomy accord. Jordan was indeed the target of such implicit accusations from Damascus and Beirut. And it was not Jordan which tried to dominate the Arab position in negotiations with Israel and sought to dictate self-serving terms to its Arab partners on how to go about negotiating with Israel.

Obviously, the Syrian and Lebanese criticism of Jordan for making peace with Israel and their assertion that the

Jordanian move undermined the Arab position do not hold much water. It has been made abundantly clear that both Syria and Lebanon could and would eventually make peace with Israel and it was only differences over the methodology that were holding up progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks with Israel. It is also clear at this point in time, as it was for several months indeed, that Syria and, by extension, Lebanon are only one step away from making peace with Israel. Jordan holding itself back would not have affected progress on those tracks. If anything, Jordan would have found itself tagging along if it had waited any longer for Syria and Israel to say the magic words — agreement to make peace.

So, let us see very clear through the veil of political fog that our Arab partners have pulled down on their approaches to peace with Israel. It is up to them to lift that veil and move ahead with their national priorities to make peace and seek Jordanian help if they feel like doing so.

Now that the peace treaty has established a direct line of political approach between Jordan and Israel, and Jordanian advice to Israel is likely to be accepted and acted upon, now that Jordan have lived up to the commitment it undertook at the outset of the international conference that launched the Middle East peace process in Madrid three years ago, the Kingdom's words carry a lot of weight with the international community.

Definitely, Damascus and Beirut know very well that Jordan would not move in any direction that would compromise the Syrian and Lebanese demands from Israel. King Hussein has made it clear time and again that he was not waiving an inch from his position that any peace settlement between Syria and Israel and Lebanon and Israel should be based on Syrian and Lebanese rights in full.

There is no ambiguity in the Jordanian position except for those who deliberately look for ambiguity and take cover from such superficialities. Jordan stands ready to extend whatever help it could to the pragmatic who cannot only see through the political fog, and is also ready to step forth and clear the atmosphere once and for all.

## THE WEEK IN PRINT

## Facing the challenge of peace

Reviewed by: Elia Nasrallah

DISCUSSIONS OVER the Jordan-Israel peace treaty and the voting in Parliament were given prominent coverage in the local press in the past week. Other topics discussed included: the "situation" in the West Bank, Russian efforts to end the embargo on Iraq and a host of domestic affairs.

A writer in Sawt Al Shaab daily described the endorsement by Parliament of the peace treaty as a victory for democracy in Jordan. The majority of deputies has approved the deal and the minority has declared it will respect the decision, said Ahmad Dabbas. Both the proponents and opponents of the treaty are now in the same boat together with the Jordanian people and face the challenge of living in peace with Israel and implementing the provisions of the agreement which are bound to bring many benefits to the Kingdom, said the writer. National unity and democracy constitute the best tool for confronting the coming challenges.

By endorsing the peace treaty Parliament has opened the door for the long march towards a new era marked with hard work but surrounded with security and stability towards a more prosperous future, said Sultan Al Harrab, a columnist for Al Ra'i daily.

With the endorsement of the treaty Jordan enters the

threshold of the 21st century with diligent and hard endeavours not only for the implementation of the treaty's provisions but also for meeting the actual requirements for industrial and economic development, the writer said.

No one can claim that the Jordan-Israel peace treaty would put an end to world Zionism's dream of creating a greater Israel in the midst of the Arab World, said Fahd Fanek, also a writer for Al Ra'i. The treaty and the other treaties with the Arabs are mere tools for achieving Zionism's dreams in a different manner, not through the use of force or intellect? Now that the treaty has been signed it is incumbent on us to prepare ourselves for the challenges ahead and we should not rely on numbers and quantities but rather opt for quality in all our preparations to confront the coming era.

The peace treaty with Israel, according to Taher Adwan, a columnist for Al Dastour, opens the door for economic and other forms of competition between us and the Jewish state. What the government ought to do now is to

give priority to defending Jordan's economic, trade, tourism and other interests as we have reason to believe that the Israelis want to impose their hegemony on us. Take the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty which has remained ink on paper bringing no joint economic projects or prosperity for the Egyptians, the writer said. He said that the Israelis were bent on keeping the Arab economies weak, and theirs in a dominant position because a strong economy means a strong political power.

A writer in Al Dastour pointed to the danger inherent in the hawks who still dominate the military establishment in Israel. Mousa Kilani said that while the Americans continue to pour billions of dollars in aid to the Jewish state and provide Israel with the latest and most sophisticated weapons and aircraft, extremists continue the drive through the military and the government to prepare Israel for more expansionist wars against the Arabs. The writer is now seizing places of worship belonging to the Muslim people, said Mahmoud Rimawi. Partitioning the Al Ibrahimi Mosque after closing it for eight months comes as a real blow to the peace efforts and damages prospects for full coexistence between the Jews and the Arabs in Palestine.

Mohammad Subeih a columnist for Al Dastour reported that the Israeli television has approached a Jordanian writer offering him the chance to conduct a programme through Israeli television without any restrictions on the material. He said that the Israelis hope that through the employment of Jordanian and other Arab writers they could lure the Arab mind to their side to approve of Israel's policies.

The writer said that this was one instance of the possible future attempts on the part of Israel to dominate the Arab mind. He that Jordan would soon be hosting correspondents of Israeli media whose job is to explore all prospects and drive into all social and economic areas to pave the ground for Israeli programmes directed at our society.

Mohammad Kawaish a writer for Al Dastour said it was a pity to see the Arab countries agreeing to end the struggle with Israel but refraining from taking reconciliatory steps towards Iraq. The writer said that the Arabs should be careful not to transform their conflict with Israel into a conflict among themselves and should take quick moves towards ending the embargo on the Iraqi people. Ending the dispute with Iraq would open the door for reconciliation among the rest of the Arab states.

Praising Russia for its efforts to end the embargo on Iraq Taher Adwan, a columnist for Al Dastour, said that in contrast the American stand was disappointing. Washington has not been satisfied with Baghdad's recognition of Kuwait and demanded that Iraq comply with its own wishes and meet U.S. requirements, said the writer. It seems that the embargo on Iraq is no more connected with the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute but rather with other reasons of Washington's creation, he noted. What is clear to us

## Exile group could hold key to Yemen's future

By Assem Abdul Mohsen  
Reuter

DUBAI — Lurking for more than eight years in exile, a group of Southern Yemenis with military muscle could make or break the country's political future after its two-month civil war, diplomatic and political sources say.

The group is made up of seven army brigades that fled the former South Yemen to the north in 1986 after losing a power struggle within the South's Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP).

It kept a low profile until the war from May 4 to July 7 this year, which ended with the defeat of a YSP-led secession attempt — and emerged as one of the clear winners.

Known as the Ali Nasser group after former Southern Yemeni president Ali Nasser Mohammad, "it came out of the war as a power to be reckoned with and, ominously enough, to be feared," one Sanaa-

based diplomat told Reuters.

The diplomat said the group "is likely to make or break the political equation in Yemen in the coming years."

"It will either help cement the country's unity or prepare the ground for another secessionist attempt," he added.

The group wields considerable military power — some 15,000 to 20,000 men — and wants to match this with political might, the sources said.

Ostensibly the group is loyal to President Ali Abdullah Saleh, a northerner. It fought with his forces against its former YSP foes, who tried to re-create South Yemen four years after it merged with the north.

Mr. Ali Nasser and his brigades fled to the former North Yemen in January 1986 after losing in bloody clashes to his rivals in the YSP that killed about 13,000 people in Aden.

Mr. Saleh offered to keep the group in check if the southern leader agreed to the merger and threatened to unleash it to cause trouble for them if not, the sources said.

Mr. Ali Nasser himself left Sanaa just before Mr. Saleh concluded the merger in 1990 with Ali Salem Al Beidh, Mr. Ali Nasser's rival and successor as YSP leader. But Mr. Ali Nasser's forces remain.

Though linked to him by association, the group is not politically loyal to the former president, who is now in Syria.

Some of them joined Mr. Saleh's General Peoples Congress (GPC), others the Islamist Islah Party. Others remained independent.

"Over the years they have become loyal to themself as a group. They tactfully distanced themselves from Ali Nasser, which won them more of Saleh's confidence," one source said.

During the first four

years of the uneasy merger, the group, while a political and military ally of Mr. Saleh, took no active part in the political strife between him and Mr. Beidh.

But when the war started last May, the Ali Nasser brigades and their commanders, familiar with the rugged terrain of their former home, swung the battle in Mr. Saleh's favour.

Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi, an officer who fled the south with Mr. Ali Nasser, was appointed defence minister by Mr. Saleh early in the war after his success in overcoming the strategic Mukayr axis — a mountain ridge that forms a gate to the south.

But in October, Mr. Saleh removed Mr. Hadi as defence minister and made him vice-president, a ceremonial job with no real power.

Diplomatic and political sources said the move was an attempt by Mr. Saleh, now that the war was over, to bring the armed forces

back under his full control.

Removing Mr. Hadi from the powerful defence portfolio and replacing him by one of his confidants, Abdul Malek Al Sayani, a northerner, was a step in this direction, the sources said.

Another Ali Nasser comander, Ahmad Musa Hussein, was appointed transport minister during the war while he was commanding forces in the southeastern Hadramawt front.

Diplomatic and political sources said the group had hoped to double its portfolios to six in Yemen's new cabinet.

Instead, with Mr. Hadi's new post, its share dropped to two — Mr. Hussein and social Affairs Minister Abdulah Al Butani, before the war the only cabinet member from the Ali Nasser group.

"Having got rid of Beidh, the last thing Saleh will be prepared for is to allow the charges.

"But this is fraught with risks. They can pose a threat to him," said one diplomat. "Equally dangerous would be any attempt to muzzle them. They will then be in a position to harvest southern grievances and prepare the ground for another secessionist

attempt."

# Features

By Dr. Masa Keilani

FOLLOWING ARE excerpts of speeches given by Upper House of Parliament Members during a session Wednesday at which senators debated the peace treaty with Israel.

## Abdullah Salah

After being isolated by the declaration of principles between the Israelis and the Palestinian authority, Jordan found that the opportunity was ripe to get the peace and security as well as restore its rights in the land and water.

The outcome to this situation was the treaty which provided peace and returned to us our land and water rights.

The peace treaty also gave the Arabs a gift by defining Israel's eastern border, and putting an end to the talk that the borders of Israel extend from the Nile to the Euphrates.

The peace treaty which fixed the Israeli borders at the Jordan River and the Wadi Araba rift, secured an international recognition of these borders and confirmed Jordan's western borders which were previously unmarked in a final form.

This treaty should be considered a dividing line between the past and the future as it ends an era of history with an honourable peace achieved through the insight of the Hashemite leadership which made the road ahead of us secure and clear.

## Rajai Mnasheh

In the light of the Lower House of Parliament's overwhelming endorsement of the treaty and the extensive debate that was held by the deputies and the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, I have several points to make:

a. The Jordanian negotiating team under directives from the King proved to be quite capable of handling the mission.

b. This treaty is in Jordan's interest and the King has declared his full commitment to its provisions to safeguard the country's highest interests.

c. This treaty has ensured the return of Jordanian rights and territory occupied by Israel since 1967, restored Jordan's water share, and ensured the demarcation of the Kingdom's western borders.

d. This treaty does not infringe on the national Palestinian rights and does not adversely affect Jordan's economic, cultural or other commitments with the Arab world.

e. For the first time the Kingdom has succeeded in securing Israel's recognition of Jordan's rights in Jerusalem and its holy places, and this constitutes the beginning of Israel's concessions.

f. The treaty requires both sides to draw up agreements on trade, transport, tourism, etc, and we have to decide for ourselves, how to utilise the tools of the peace treaty to ensure national interest and objectives.

g. This treaty is bound to ensure further economic growth and prosperity for the Kingdom, but achieving this requires tremendous efforts.

The treaty is a gift from the King to his people ensuring their stability, and the country's security.

On Nov. 14 we will be celebrating the King's birthday and our gift to the King should be a declaration of our commitment to protect national unity, and work towards solving our problems rising above personal disputes, and in a scientific manner placing the higher national interest above all other considerations.

I do support the Senate's foreign affairs committee's report which recommended that the House endorses the peace treaty.

## Amer Khammash

I begin by thanking His Majesty King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan and the government for their unique role and relentless efforts to achieve this treaty that safeguards the country's national interest.

I express deep appreciation for the strenuous efforts exerted by the Jordanian negotiating team led by Dr. Fayed Tarawneh who must be given credit for arriving at a just formula ensuring the nation's rights.

From this forum I would like to address the Israeli government and people and say that now that the peace treaty is being endorsed I see that the ball is now in your court. If you wish you can make peace work and be genuine in the full sense of the word. We want peace based on justice and equal rights based on mutual respect. We welcome you as our neighbours. Neither you

# Senators address peace treaty, its implications

nor we would like to see this historic treaty transformed into another indefinite truce.

We are ready to reciprocate peace in as much as you can respond to the peace requirements toward us and our brothers. Make this peace genuine so that it can become a lasting one.

## Abdul Aziz Al Khayat

In the seventh session of the Islamic faith (jurisdiction) council of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), convened in Jeddah May 14, 1994, I presented a paper on treaties and agreements in Islam as reflected in Islamic views on international relations, and that was after the Gulf crisis.

During debates of the paper on the issue—the issue of treaties in states of war and peace—I asked a question: whether it is possible to have peace with those who usurped the land and evicted our relatives after shedding their blood, killing the innocent, and stealing their property and water and breaching the sanctity of holy places.

Scholars said: It cannot be because international relations in Islam are based on war, and they based their argument on Koranic verses such as "fight them to prevent sedition..."

Other scholars said: It is allowed because the origin of foreign relations in Islam is peace, and that it is not allowed to fight opponents unless they attack, and war is only permitted in the case of self-defence or in case the enemies resisted Islamic da'wa by force, and if they chose peace, so peace in this case becomes inevitable. And they based their argument on the Koranic verses: "(If they chose peace so let it be your choice and let God be your supporter),..." and they said

that a treaty with the enemies was permissible, basing their argument on that the prophet had a treaty with the Jews in Madina, although they had moved to it and took land and settled on it, but when they breached agreement he fought them and drove them away, and that he had signed an agreement with the people of Mecca, although they had driven him and the Muslims out of it, and they had reviewed peace agreements between Muslims and their enemies over history, especially the peace between Saladin and Ricardos when the former found that he was no more able to continue the war...

The high council then did not take a decision or a fatwa on the issue.

And at the Senate, I listened to the views of the opponents and proponents of the draft law, and they are all right in their views... the opponents view the treaty as a deviation from the Islamic religion and the divine teachings, and as a deviation from the texts of the Holy Koran and Sunna (the Prophet's sayings) dealing with the Jews, and a violation of the Constitution. They had supported their arguments by verses and the Prophet's sayings, and they viewed it as a recognition of Israel and affirmation of its existence on the land of Palestine, which is a usurped Arab and Islamic land...

The supporters view the treaty as a need to get rid of the state of anxiety, fear and weakness, and that was a great achievement carried out by Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty the King through stepped-up, strenuous efforts, and that it was the best that can be taken while the Arabs are in this state of weakness and disunity, and under pressures which we could not resist... and that it was to end the state of war and protect from wars and to prevent Israel from expanding...

To balance between the two views and observe the treaty, I would like to record the following:

First: Is there any lasting peace? Fighting, discords and wars did not stop since Cain killed Abel, and no treaty between two countries have continued. We are still facing the shadows of the two world wars, discords, dissent, civil wars, betrayal, domination by the super powers, the emergence of destructive wars after the demise of the Soviet Union, especially in former Yugoslavia and what the others did to the Bosnian Muslims.

Second: His Majesty King Hussein has announced the end of the state of war, and the treaty states the end of the state of belligerency between the two countries, and hostility cannot be controlled or cannot disappear unless the reasons for it disappear.

Third: Palestine is an Arab and Islamic land, and the treaty does not mean surrendering the usurped rights, but it is a political state in extraordinarily harsh situations.

Fourth: The call to implement the teachings of the tolerant Islamic Shar'a does not constitute an act of terrorism, and the Muslims' resistance to corruption, deviation and atheism through peaceful means and dialogue is not also considered intellectual terrorism.

Fifth: What is the use of calling for having a region free of blocks and alliances, from weapons of mass destruction while the other party has the right to them.

Sixth: The Islamic holy places, particularly Al Aqsa Mosque, should be protected because they are for all Muslims, and the role carried out by Jordan to preserve and reconstruct them a historical role which it should be thanked for. The Islamic nation, Arabs and non-Arabs, is required to preserve and save them.

Seventh: What is important after achieving peace is that we become stronger than before and that we preserve our Arab-Islamic identity and not accept normalisation that melts down our personalities and imposes on us an alien culture or civilisation other than ours. The treaty should not only require us to give up our dogma, religion, values and morals nor ask us to change our curricula and to neglect the texts of our religion to satisfy any person.

We adhere to the teachings of God in terms of dealing with people, and we do not condone corruption and deviation, and this was emphasised by the government in its reply to the queries of the respected deputies.

## Laila Sharaf

We are face to face with a great historic responsibility as we debate the peace treaty with Israel. This treaty was necessary in view of the world and regional political circumstances and the imbalances on the world political scene as well as the disarray in Arab ranks.

I have the following remarks to make about the treaty, which emanate from my deep concerns over its implementation.

1. The treaty calls for ending the psychological barrier between the two sides. Such a move can only be decided by the masses themselves and can not be imposed through documents. Any pressure or fast moves to achieve it could backfire.

2. Article 4 of the treaty discusses security and the creation of a regional security and peace partnership and cooperation in security affairs.

We are here talking about regional security while still ignorant of the nature of peace we will have with Israel.

We are entering into a partnership with Israel to have regional security while we have all along and until recent months considered Israel as the Arab foe.

We in Jordan constitute part of the Arab World which we believe is still alive. We ought to direct our attention towards building a new Arab order based on new, solid foundations first before looking beyond towards a regional bloc.

With reference to Article 4 of the treaty which stipulates that Jordan can not enter into any alliance with other states, I believe his could be interpreted in the future in a certain way that would damage Jordan's relations with the other Arab states.

We should demand here that Israel reveal the implications of its strategic alliance with the United States if Article Four is to be respected.

4. With reference to Article 2, about free markets, we notice that the negotiators had faced difficulty in reaching agreement. We demand that detailed and full.

5. Article 10 of the treaty relates to cultural matters and cultural exchanges with Israel.

It is to be noted that Jordan is for the first time in its history taking steps towards normalising cultural relations with a non-Arab neighbouring state which is alien to Arab and Islamic culture. We are in for a cultural shock and facing real danger to our cultural identity. Culture is not like trade and economy, it is rather something embedded deeply in the Arab souls and therefore every measure should be taken to prevent any alien culture from invading our society.

6. Referring to Article 11 on good neighbouringness, this article stipulates that each side refrain from any hostile campaign against the other and that the concerned authorities take the necessary steps to prevent hostile attitudes.

The article opens the door for different interpretations and could apply to education and the media. We realise that the world Zionism has been influential worldwide in changing the historical attitudes and in methods of intimidation. Therefore, we do not wish to see the treaty forcing us to change our cultural and political way of life.

This article indeed contains the elements that would pressure us to rewrite history especially in aspects related to the long

Israeli-Arab conflict. The treaty should not be made to be used as a tool to force us to change the facts or to end our pan-Arab affiliation.

We have to remember that Israel has never ceased to distort Arab and Islamic image and harm our culture through various media forms and tools and even through cartoons in television programmes. We therefore should demand that Israel stop such practices against Arabs and Muslims and make it clear that Jordan can never be separated from the Arab and Islamic na-

tion. In my view, the choice to have a peace treaty was the best of other bad choices, if I may say that it was my only choice. In addition, a review of the status quo of the Arab-Israeli conflict, its near future, leads us to say that the treaty was a far-sighted response to a host of harsh challenges facing the nation in general, and Jordan in particular, after the acceleration of changes in international and Arab fields, starting with the demise of the Soviet Union, the collapse of Arab solidarity, the military and economic repercussions of the Gulf war, and the repercussions of the absence of Arab coordination in the negotiations which began in Madrid, stumbled in Washington and vanished after the Oslo agreement.

8. Concerning economic cooperation and joint projects, the treaty provides for the development of the Jordan rift valley, cooperation in agriculture, tourism and health fields and in energy and water-related affairs. We have not yet tested the nature of peace with Israel, but through this treaty, have obviously pledged to take steps which ought to have been delayed until we see that peace really works. We should have taken time to wait and watch how peace works first.

9. Concerning the Baqoura and Al Ghamer districts which have been leased to the Israelis, this has created new and complicated problems for Jordan which ought to have been learned from the Taba lesson. Jordan is now faced with the prospect of allowing the Israelis to use the two districts and even renew the lease if it expired.

In return for leasing the two districts, Jordan ought to demand that Jordanian citizens property now under Israeli control be returned to the Jordanian people.

## Natheer Rasheed

FIRST, I would like to inform you that senators Sheikh Ahmad Al Saoud Al Adwan, Sheikh Mashour Abu Tayeh and Sheikh Sami Mithqal Al Fayez have all participated in writing this speech and have given me the honour to deliver it on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker,

The draft law on the peace treaty between the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the government of Israel which we are currently debating has been studied thoroughly with all its annexes. As well, we all followed speeches by the respected deputies, whether they supporting or opposing it. We also followed all that was published about it in the press and read with interest the report by the foreign affairs committee of the Lower House of Parliament and we found it an objective and complete report. We also read the reply of the prime minister to the Lower House.

We all concluded that this treaty agrees completely with the Jordanian national principles stands which we sought to achieve and this (treaty) is the best our negotiating team managed to obtain.

It had returned to us all our lands and our water share which were stolen, and for the first time since the establishment of Israel we have a fixed and recognised western border.

This treaty that we are discussing now is the most important political event for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan since its establishment. The strenuous efforts of His Majesty King Hussein — may God protect him — have produced the fruits of what his grandfather, the founder of the Kingdom, King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, may his soul rest in peace, started by demanding all its borders. The following up of His Majesty to every word in it and his directives to his government and the negotiating team had a great, decisive influence in having the treaty in this honorable shape we are seeing.

For Prince Hassan... we extend our thanks and appreciation for his efforts and is exerting under the guidance of King Hussein — may God protect him — and for his participation in preparing this treaty and negotiating it.

And also we express our thanks and gratitude to the prime minister, Dr. Abdal Salam Al Majali, whose government has offered this treaty draft law for study. He personally and his government have shouldered the responsibility of the negotiations process since its very beginning patiently and with clear vision, disregarding all criticism and sometimes slander... to reach this end under King Hussein's directions.

We are on the threshold of a new stage through which we need all our capabilities, creativity, reason and objectivity more than we need the brainwashing on the one hand and the arousing of sentiments of the public on the other. We also need sincere efforts to enhance democracy and accept its rules and outcome...

Therefore, I approve the recommendation to endorse the treaty's draft law.

## Taher Hikmat

I would like to express first: that this treaty is not a victory, and it is not also a defeat. And naturally it is not our ultimate goal, nor is it an embodiment of all the nation's aspirations. Who ever says otherwise is exaggerating inasmuch as those who think that this treaty is a final relinquishment of the aspirations of the nation and an abortion of its desire which the generations were taught to adhere to and look up to.

And also we express our thanks and gratitude to the prime minister, Dr. Abdal Salam Al Majali, whose government has offered this treaty draft law for study. He personally and his government have shouldered the responsibility of the negotiations process since its very beginning patiently and with clear vision, disregarding all criticism and sometimes slander... to reach this end under King Hussein's directions.

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Therefore, I approve the recommendation to endorse the treaty's draft law.

Mr. Speaker,

We have to remember that Israel has never ceased to distort Arab and Islamic image and harm our culture through various media forms and tools and even through cartoons in television programmes. We therefore should demand that Israel stop such practices against Arabs and Muslims and make it clear that Jordan can never be separated from the Arab and Islamic na-

tion. In my view, the choice to have a peace treaty was the best of other bad choices, if I may say that it was my only choice. In addition, a review of the status quo of the Arab-Israeli conflict, its near future, leads us to say that the treaty was a far-sighted response to a host of harsh challenges facing the nation in general, and Jordan in particular, after the acceleration of changes in international and Arab fields, starting with the demise of the Soviet Union, the collapse of Arab solidarity, the military and economic repercussions of the Gulf war, and the repercussions of the absence of Arab coordination in the negotiations which began in Madrid, stumbled in Washington and vanished after the Oslo agreement.

A state, any state does not resort to concluding peace treaties after bloody wars and occupation and frustration except as a choice showing in pre-existing calculations, and as a translation of the real balances of power that are not only excluded to military power, but also to demographic, economic, geographic and strategic considerations...

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## Navratilova to face Sabatini in her final tournament

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Martina Navratilova will open the last tournament of her career against Gabriela Sabatini in the \$3.5 million Virginia Slims Championship in New York.

Navratilova, the most successful tennis player in history, is retiring after the tournament, which marks the final stop on the 1994 women's tour. The 38-year-old has won 167 singles titles and earned more than \$20.5 million since turning pro in 1973.

Sabatini, who reached the quarterfinals of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia on Thursday, said she is looking forward to playing against Navratilova in the round-robin tournament.

"I'm excited," Sabatini said. "I love to play against Martina, and it's going to be very special because it's her last tournament. I want to win, too. I hope we can play our best and make it a good match."

Navratilova won 18 grand slam titles, including nine Wimbledons, in singles, 31 in doubles and six in mixed doubles. Navratilova decided earlier this season that this would be her last on tour.

She is seeded sixth in the Virginia Slims Championships, which runs from Monday to Nov. 20. The tournament includes the top 16 players in the world.

The other first-round matches includes Steffi Graf vs. Brenda Schultz; Amanda Coetzer vs. Mary Pierce; Iana Novotna vs. Iva Majoli; Anke Huber vs. Lindsay Davenport; Kimiko Date vs. Magdalena Maleeva; Natasha Zvereva vs. Conchita Martinez; Julie Haldor vs. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

**Davenport falls to Schultz**

Brenda Schultz, rattling serves of more than 105 mph (168 kph), defeated Lindsay Davenport 2-6, 6-2, 6-4 Thursday in the second round of the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Schultz powered her way past the third seed, among the hardest baseline hitters on the women's tour.

"I knew the only way to beat Lindsay was to hit harder than she does," Schultz



Jennifer Capriati leaps to return a volley in her match at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia (AFP photo)

said. "If she starts hitting hard and cranking it up, she'll hit winners all over the place."

Jennifer Capriati pulled out of doubles competition after sustaining a sore right shoulder during her first singles match in more than a year.

Capriati was to play with Mercedes Paz against Pam Shriver and Elizabeth Smylie in a first-round match. On Wednesday, Capriati lost 6-4, 6-1 to Anke Huber.

In other second-round singles matches, No. 2 seed Mary Pierce struggled early before winning 10 of the last 11 games en route to a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Patty Fendick.

Pierce will next play 16-year-old newcomer Meilen Tu, who defeated Katerina Maleeva 6-4, 6-3. Tu, a wildcard entry from California, won for the second time on the tour to advance to the quarterfinals.

No. 4 Gabriela Sabatini got off to a slow start before beating Joannette Kruger 6-4, 6-0. Sabatini will play Chanida Rubin in the quarters.

Schultz, clocked with the

hardest serve at 113 mph (181 kph) earlier this year, hit two aces in the final games of the third set to win the match.

She won the last three games in the last two sets after Davenport showed effective groundstrokes in winning the first set.

Schultz hit consecutive aces early in the third set, prompting a frustrated Davenport to scream. "Get me out of here," the 18-year-old American took a 3-2 lead in the third but was broken at 4-4 before the 23-year-old Dutchwoman served for the match.

"You try to weather the storm," Davenport said. "You just try to get balls back in. I couldn't do that."

Schultz also got easy points when Davenport made returns. Schultz used her powerful forehand down the line after being set up by Davenport's weak lobs.

"It was hurting my wrist when I touched it," Davenport said. "The ball would bounce off my racket, and my hand would just bend back."

Schultz will play fifth-seeded Natalia Zvereva in the next round, Zvereva de-

feated Julie Haldor 6-1, 6-4 on Thursday.

Fendick had a 3-2 lead in the first set before Pierce won four straight games. Pierce then attacked Fendick's serve in the second set and won the final point with a powerful backhand down the line.

Pierce, ranked fifth in the world, remains the highest seed in the tournament after top-seeded Conchita Martinez was knocked out in the first round.

Nathalie Tauziat, who beat Martinez in her first match, was eliminated by Kimberly Po 6-3, 2-6, 7-5 less than 18 hours after her upset victory.

Po won the final two games and beat Tauziat with a backhand lob at match point.

**Sampras at top in EC Championships**

In Antwerp Pete Sampras is in a league all his own at the \$1.1 million European Community Championship — partly by design, partly by disease.

Sampras goes into the quarterfinal against little-known Byron Black, of Zimbabwe and his closest challenger left in the event is the

world's No. 20, Australian Patrick Rafter, seeded sixth here.

Gone are Michael Stich, Stefan Edberg and Richard Krajicek. Boris Becker, who was supposed to be here, just didn't show up.

"It's surprising to see so many of the top 5 seeds lose," Sampras said. "But I'm not going to take it easy on anyone."

Edberg, the No. 3 seed, couldn't even get on court Thursday. Two hours ahead of his match, he was nursing a high fever and a sore throat.

"The European weather, maybe," said Sampras.

He should know.

Sampras had a similar case of tonsillitis earlier in the week, when antibiotics made him sluggish and slow during a tougher than expected opening match against a local wild card.

"It's gone now," he said after a copybook 6-3, 6-3 win over fellow American Richey Rennerberg. "I gave it to Stefan."

Edberg's withdrawal gave American Jared Palmer a free ride into the quarterfinals.

## 1st Division Basketball Championship

### Ahli defeat Al Watani; Jalil overcome Homemtmen

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Titleholders Al Ahli scored their third consecutive victory Thursday scoring over the 100 point mark when they defeated Al Watani 130-67 in the third week of the 1st Division Basketball Championship.

In the day's only other

match, Homemtmen surprised Al Jalil in the first half but later lost the match 96-60 at Yarmouk University court in Irbid.

Al Ahli's players im-

plemented that policy right

to the last word as they

overcame Al Watani 75-25

in the first half, before seal-

ing their lead and scored a 96-60 victory.

Homemtmen will next

take on former champions

Al Orthodoxi.

Al Hussein, who had

finished sixth last season,

will have to improve that

standing by overcoming at

least two teams to avoid

relegation. They will next

face Al Jazireh, the third

place finisher last year, and

the team that might be able

to upset Al Orthodoxi and

clinch second place for the

first time.

## STANDINGS

	P	W	L	SF	SA	Pts.
Ahli	3	3	—	384	147	6
Jazireh	2	2	—	164	137	4
Watani	3	1	2	209	270	4
Jalil	2	1	1	165	133	3
Homemtmen	3	—	3	135	305	3
Hussein	1	1	1	54	119	1
Orthodoxi	—	—	—	—	—	—

\*Orthodoxi-Hussein have a postponed match.

## Zimbabwe team behind Grobbelaar

HARARE (R) — Zim-

babwe's acting coach Rudi

Gutendorf said Friday his

team fully backed national

goalkeeper Bruce Grob-

belaa, accused in Britain of

accepting bribes to fix matches.

"The whole team is fully

behind him," said Gutendorf

as Grobbelaar, who flew into

Harare from London Friday,

joined other Zimbabwean

players for practice ahead of

Sunday's African Cup qualif-

ier in Harare between Zim-

babwe and Zaire.

Gutendorf said Grobbelaar

was told his teammates

he was nursing a high fever and a sore throat.

"The European weather,

maybe," said Sampras.

He should know.

Sampras had a similar case

of tonsillitis earlier in the

week, when antibiotics made

him sluggish and slow during

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Zimbabwean goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar in action for Liverpool during a British League against Norwich (AFP photo)

years, Zimbabwean reserve

goalkeeper Ernest Chirambala said he did not believe them.

"I don't believe he could have taken bribes. Neither do the other guys," he said.

Another teammate, Eptaini Chawanda, said the charges did not bother him much "because I know Bruce. I don't believe he would do such a thing. He's an excellent player and sportsman."

"The rest of the guys don't believe this alleged scandal. We are all in high spirits and so is Bruce," he said.

Peter Ndlovu, another British-based Zimbabwean player who flew into Harare earlier this week, for Sunday's game, declined to com-

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIA HIRSCH  
©1992 Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation

FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN IS A POTENT WEAPON

Both vulnerable. South deals.

North has a bit of a legendarium

ace schism.

North-South reached four hearts

in quick time on a straightforward

auction. It might seem the contract

cannot be defeated, but watch what

happened.

West led the king of spades and

East dropped the eight. On the

conclusion of the ace of spades, East

concluded the hand by playing the

deuce. When West led a third

spade, declarer, afraid West would

score a cheap ruff, put up the jack of

hearts.

That was the only break the de-

clarer needed. As the cards lay,</p

## Mansell fastest; Schumacher escapes crash

ADELA  
ACK, former world champion grabbed provisional pole day for Sunday's Australian Grand Prix just a month later, switching from the In-After series.

World championship leader Michael Schumacher escaped unscathed from a spectacular high-speed crash as he attempted to match Mansell's time of one minute 16.179 seconds around the 3.78-kilometre Adelaide street circuit.

Mansell averaged 178.631 kilometres per hour in his Williams-Renault.

The 41-year-old British veteran overtook Schumacher with less than four minutes left in the first qualifying session, having recovered his composure after spinning minutes earlier while avoiding a collision with the stalled car of Johnny Herbert.

"You have to have a sense of humour when you come round the corner full bore and see the track blocked," said Mansell. "That was a close moment, and I was happy to be able to do a time after that."

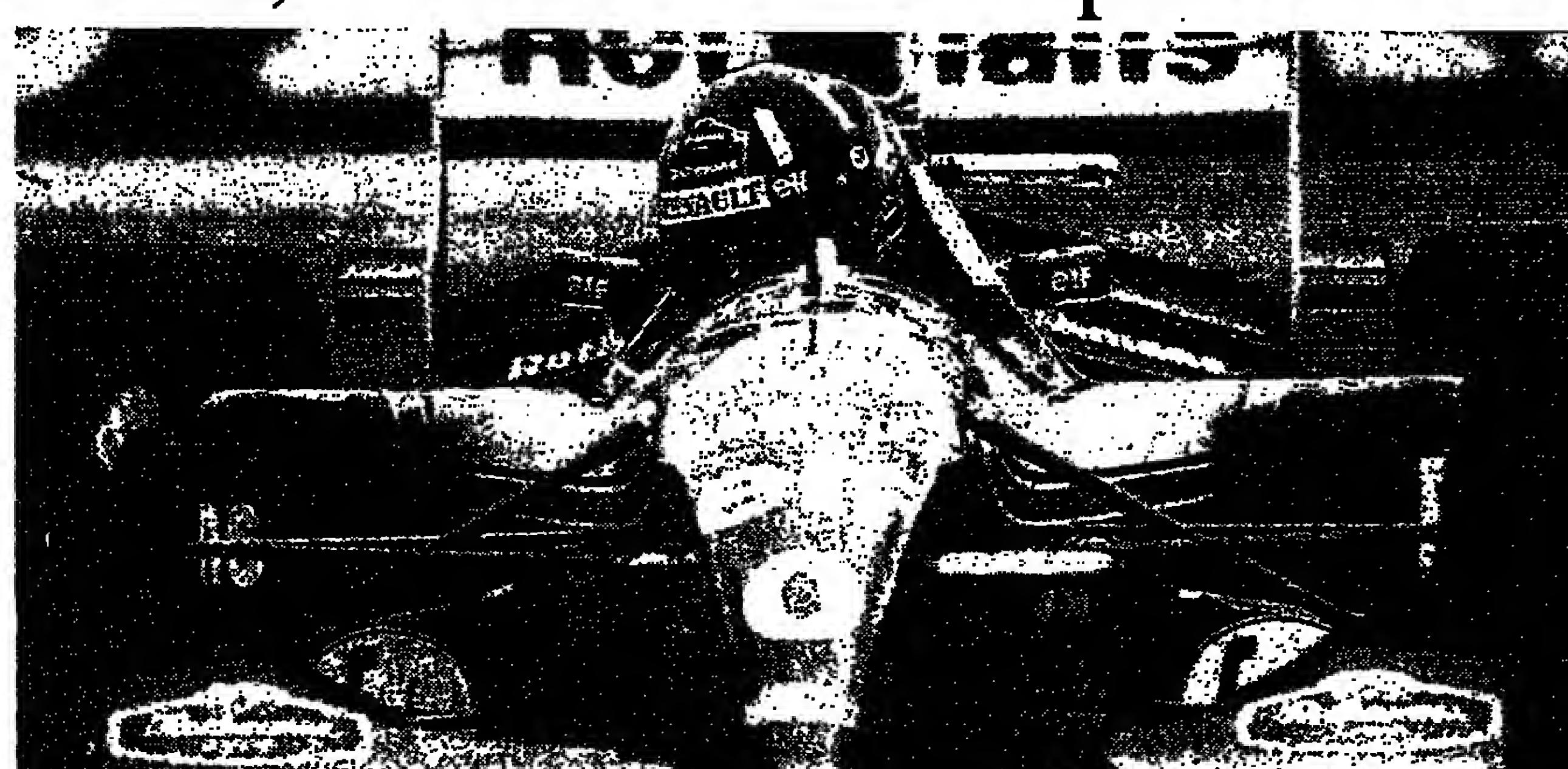
Schumacher was second-fastest in his Benetton-Ford at 1:16.197 — just 0.018 of a second slower — and said he felt no ill effects after his crash in the final seconds of the session as he attempted to improve on Mansell's time.

The German lost control in a chicane, hit tire barrier and then spun four times, losing two wheels and wrecking his car in the process.

He said he had complained Wednesday about the chicane being dangerous. "The officials made a little change, but it is still not good enough," he said.

Damon Hill, Mansell's teammate and compatriot and Schumacher's only rival for the world title, was third-quickest at 1:16.830 in the other Williams-Renault.

Mika Hakkinen of Finland



Britain's Damon Hill leans his Williams-Renault into a bend during the first qualifying session of the Australian GP (AFP photo)

was fourth-fastest in a McLaren-Peugeot at 1:16.992, Rubens Barrichello of Brazil was fifth in a Jordan-Hart at 1:17.537, and Eddie Irvine of Britain was sixth-fastest in a Jordan-Hart at 1:17.667.

The final qualifying session was scheduled for Saturday afternoon.

Schumacher leads the drivers' championship with 92 points going into the season-ending race. Hill has 91. Either would clinch the title with a win Sunday.

"The important thing is to get the championship," he said.

Hill, the 34-year-old son of former two-time world champions Graham Hill, took over as No. 1 driver for the Williams-Renault team after three-time world champion Ayrton Senna was killed in a crash at the San Marino Grand Prix in May.

The elder Hill, who won the championship in a rookie in 1966, died in a light plane crash in 1975.

Damon Hill was won four of the last five grands prix in a late-season surge and is aiming to become the first son of a world champion to take the drivers' title.

Schumacher's crash sent

"I think we have learned a lot today, and with a bit of work tonight we will be able to put that information to good use for final qualifying," said.

Hill, "it is good news that Nigel, who is being very helpful, is faster than Michael."

Mansell has twice started the Australian Grand Prix from pole position — in 1986 and 1992 — but has never won. He missed the 1993 race while in the United States, where he won the PPG Indycar series.

The third-winningest racer of all time, Mansell will be seeking his 31st Formula One triumph on Sunday. "I was very, very happy today," he said.

The constructors' championship also will be decided in Adelaide. Williams-Renault currently has 108 points to Benetton-Ford's 103.

Ford to power Sauber in 1996

Meanwhile confirmed Friday that next year they will supply Formula One Team Sauber with their V8 engines which have powered the suc-

cessful Benetton team during this year's championship.

The Cosworth-engineered power units, which have helped championship-leading German Michael Schumacher to eight victories out of this year's 15 grands prix, will be supplied to the Swiss Sauber team on an exclusive basis.

Benetton announced earlier they would switch to Renault's V10 engines in 1995.

Albert Caspers, chairman of Ford Europe, said he was delighted to complete the deal with Sauber.

"In two years in Formula One, Peter Sauber has shown that he and his team have got what it takes to compete at the highest level," he said. "We are very excited at the prospects."

Ford has been one of the giants of Formula One engine supply for the last 27 years. Last Sunday in Japan, the company celebrated running its 400th Grand Prix.

Ford made their Formula One debut at the Dutch Grand Prix in 1967 when Briton Jim Clark won in a Lotus powered by a Ford engine.

## Worthy retires from NBA

INGLEWOOD (AP) — James Worthy, sometimes lost in the enormous shadows of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Magic Johnson when the Los Angeles Lakers dazzled the U.S. National Basketball Association, retired Thursday, severing the final link to those glory days.

When Abdul-Jabbar called it quits following the 1988-89 season, he left as the NBA's career scoring leader.

When Johnson left two years later after testing positive for the virus that causes AIDS, he was the league's career assist leader.

Yet neither could match Worthy's blinding speed on the wing of a fast break or his thunderous dunks.

And neither had a nickname like "big game James," which Worthy lived up to time and again during a 12-year career.

Worthy, 33, started this season on the injured list because of tendinitis in his left knee. He left the team last last month when his mother died in North Carolina, and hasn't been with the Lakers since.

"It's been a wonderful, wonderful 12 years," Worthy said during a packed news conference at the Forum, where just a step ahead. We couldn't do what we did without that chemistry, that unity."

Former teammates Abdul-Jabbar, Johnson and Michael Cooper, now an assistant with the Lakers, sat at the table with Worthy during the news conference.

Worthy averaged 17.1 points and 5.1 rebounds in 926 regular-season games and ranks 54th on the NBA scoring list with 16,320 points. He averaged 21.1 points and 5.2 rebounds in 143 playoff games.

Last season, Worthy played in 80 games and averaged 10.2 points, 2.3 rebounds and 20 minutes a game — all career lows — as the Lakers failed to make the playoffs for the first time in 18 years.

Worthy said the Lakers will honour the final two years of his contract, calling for him to earn \$7.2 million this season and \$5.15 million next season.

"Awaiting me after this retirement are some broadcast opportunities and some business ventures," Worthy said. "I can't ask for any more. I'd like to go back and change a few things, but I can't ask for any more."

NASHVILLE (R) — Tickets for the 1996 summer Olympics in Atlanta are tentatively set to go on sale next May 1, officials said Thursday.

Nearly 12 million tickets

were scheduled to take place during 17 days in July 1996 will be subjected to a lottery system similar.

"There will be some disappointed folks. However, every single event has a ticket available for as little as \$25."

No event is priced out of the capability of the average American family," he added.

Ticket prices, which in-

clude the cost of transportation between venues, will range as high as \$250 for athletic events.

## Atlanta Olympic tickets go on sale May 1

na, Los Angeles and Littlehammer combined," Payne later said in a speech at the USOC conference.

Nearly 12 million tickets will be on offer, officials said.

"That's the good news. There are tickets for everybody," Payne said. "To some degree, of course, I must confess the bad news and that is some of the events will be immediately oversubscribed."

Payne said that tickets for some of the 560 sporting



## Ewing, O'Neal battle in playoff-caliber match

NEW YORK (AP) — Shaq had the big numbers. Patrick had the final word.

Shaquille O'Neal and Patrick Ewing turned an early season matchup between the division rivals Orlando and New York into a playoff-caliber battle Thursday night.

One night after getting 46 points and 60 rebounds

against Charlotte, O'Neal had 41 points and 17 rebounds against New York, scoring 10 straight points to tie the game at 99-all with 11 seconds left. But Ewing, who had 24 points, won it for the Knicks, hitting a fadeaway jumper with two seconds left at Madison Square Garden.

Both Ewing, who made his first seven shots, and O'Neal, who hit his first four, missed

sizeable stretches of the game due to foul trouble.

Ewing played only two minutes of the third period after getting his fourth foul. O'Neal helped bring Orlando, which trailed by 14 in the second quarter, to 68-67 in a basket with 2:53 left in the third, but he immediately committed his fourth foul and

left the game.

"I think we came out a little flat, but I still think we played a good game and made a nice comeback in the second half," O'Neal said. "I have to stay in the game if we are going to win," though.

Anfernee Hardaway had 27 points for the Magic, and Nick Anderson added 19.

Charles Oakley had 16 points and 12 rebounds for New York, which also got 13 rebounds from Charles Smith.

After opening the season with wins against Phoenix and Seattle, it was back to reality for Sacramento, which shot only 34 per cent against visiting Portland.

Cliff Robinson scored 12 of his 25 points in the third quarter, and Rod Strickland scored all of his 16 points.

The Kings were led by Mitch Richmond's 23 points.

Chris Dudley had 17 rebounds for the Trail Blazers, who have won 16 of the last 17 from Sacramento.

Atlanta coach Lenny Wilkens finally got a win after the Hawks' 0-4 start, their worst in 23 years.

Wilkens is 12 victories away from surpassing Red Auerbach's record 938 career coaching wins.

Stacy Augmon had 25 points for the Hawks, who led 80-65 after three quarters.

Loy Vaught had 20 points in the winless Clippers' home opener.

Rookie Grant Hill led Detroit with 23 points, and Joe Dumars scored four points in the final minute at Auburn Hills, Michigan.

Trailing by 17 points in the third quarter, Detroit got 13 points in the period from Hill as the Pistons rallied to win their third straight game.

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## Arms control talks end with accord on confidence building

By P.V. Vivekanand  
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — The regional working group on arms control and security of the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process has produced its first concrete project — agreement to set up a centre to prevent conflict in the region — during an intersessional meeting held last week in Amman.

The three-day meeting, held at the Dead Sea Spa Hotel, concluded Thursday evening with agreements to build confidence-building measures, including prior notification of army exercises and to work out a framework to carry out rescue efforts in the event of natural disasters in the region.

The meeting, which brought together 22 countries including Jordan and Israel, accepted a Jordanian proposal to set up a "conflict-prevention and regional security centre" in the Middle East along the lines of a similar body which is part of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, said Abdullah Toukan, head of the Jordanian delegation.

Dr. Toukan announced after the meeting that the participants also agreed to set up a "security/military communication network system" to prevent accidents and to exchange information and prior notifications on military

exercises.

The Hague will serve as the temporary headquarters of the proposed communications centre pending the final arrangements, which aim at bringing in other countries in the region not involved in the multilateral phase of the peace process at this point in time.

The conference, which will present its agreements and recommendations to a full-pledged meeting of the regional working group to be held in Tunisia in December, also agreed to work out a mechanism to prevent accidental conflicts at sea among the naval countries of the region.

Among the first steps towards setting up "conflict-prevention" centre is an undertaking by all countries in the region to provide complete information of all the weapons they possess with a view to setting up a data bank on arms in the Middle East, long known to be the most lucrative market for the Western arms industry.

Observers believe that Israel, which has for long refused to acknowledge its reported nuclear arsenal, would balk at providing such information. So far, it has only said that it would not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons to the Middle East.

Dr. Toukan said agreements for eliminating

weapons of mass destruction could be phased in as peace talks moved on.

"You cannot have a weapons of mass destruction free zone without a comprehensive peace and vice-versa," he said. "They go hand in hand."

Most Arab states are reluctant to make commitments on cutting conventional weapons until they have dealt with their main concern — Israel's nuclear potential.

Turkey, the Palestinians, Egypt, the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council, Yemen, Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunis, Canada, France and Australia attended the talks.

Syria and Lebanon, which have boycotted all multilateral negotiations, stayed away, as did Iran, Iraq, Sudan and Libya.

As a result of the meetings, there is a bright prospect for serious agreements to reduce the chance of conflict at sea and on the ground and to arrive at a culture of common preparation towards security in the region," Frederick Axelgaard, from the U.S. State Department, told the closing session.

"We had serious progress on exchange of military information, particularly involving major movements of troops on the ground," he said.

A Turkish delegate said

Israel extended invitations to participants to visit military facilities inside Israel.

"There are specific invitations by Israel...to see their defense industry installations," said Suha Umar, head of the Turkish delegation to the meeting.

He said the invitations are in principle and dates will be fixed in "the coming days," and added that the invitations were received "very positively" by the Arab delegations present at the talks.

The invitations came along with a list of 12 recommendations, Mr. Umar said.

"We have worked out some 12 confidence-building measures, the most important of them being the pre-notification of military exercises" which might take place in the various countries in the region, he said.

He said other recommendations included the establishment of the conflict prevention centre in the Middle East and the exchange of "information on the organisation structure of their (regional countries') militaries...how many divisions they have, who governs them, where are their headquarters."

David Ivry, head of the Israel's delegation, said: "I think there was a lot of goodwill, including some Gulf participants who were somewhat more hesitant in earlier talks."

orders to clear out of their homes — easier said than done for the the area's impoverished inhabitants. "We want the officials to come and see our situation for mercy's sake," Al Gomhouria quoted Sabah Abbas, whose arm was broken by the falling rocks, as saying. "Our lives are threatened with homelessness," she added. Ms. Abbas is the mother of four, and her family's home consists of one room, according to the paper.

**India to train Afghan commercial pilots**

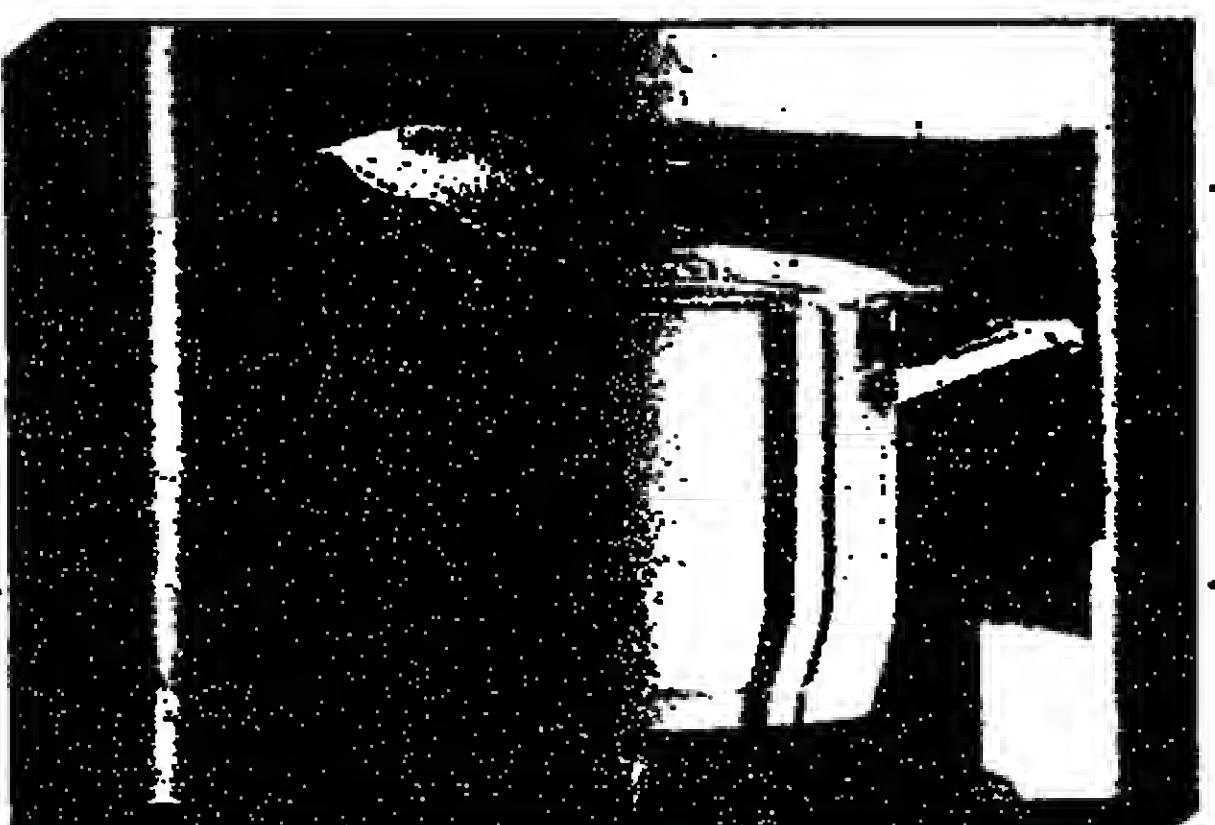
NEW DELHI (AP) — India will train Afghan airline pilots and allow more commercial flights between Kabul and New Delhi. The civil aviation ministers of the two countries reached an agreement in this regard during their meeting in New Delhi on Friday, Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported. PTI said India will also consider Afghan minister Abdul Rehman's request for maintenance facilities for Ariana Afghan Airlines aircraft at New Delhi airport. Ariana Afghan will operate more flights to and from New Delhi to fill in state-owned Indian Airlines slot. India's civil aviation minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad, said. The Indian Airlines stopped flying to Kabul five years ago because of internal strife there. The Ariana Afghan Airlines has been flying between New Delhi and Kabul, depending on the war conditions in Afghanistan.

**Pro-Arafat activist assassinated**

SIDON (AP) — A loyalist of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat was shot to death at his house in the Ein Al Hilweh refugee camp near this southern Lebanese port city Friday, police said. A police statement identified the victim as Ziad Hasan Sharaf, 41, an activist of Mr. Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction.

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His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Thursday exchange Yoseph Alaa, the documents of ratification of the Jordanian

## Press, mixed identities at new crossing, on Tiberias shores

By Cathy King  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A warm relaxed atmosphere prevailed Thursday at the opening of the second Jordan-Israel crossing point, although Israeli enthusiasm for the occasion was in greater evidence than that of the Jordanian onlookers.

Invited guests and journalists from both sides of the border intermingled freely.

Formality was lax. Israeli women, whether in military dress or plain clothes, sauntered about with long hair flowing untidily.

A not so common sight for those east of the river was the number of men with equally long and untidy hair, not to mention the body hugging, cleavage showing clothing and miniskirts that glared revealingly at those more accustomed to a modest code of dress.

Once accredited by the Jordanian Ministry of Information as a member of the press corps, passports were inessential. Providing your name was on the official list a pass as affixed to the chest, with another tacked to that, from Israeli authorities, after crossing the bridge. There was yet another doled out when it was time to pass into Israeli territory proper, through what will be passport control.

Symbolism abounded at the ceremony: Participation of the latest generation

in the form of Jordanian and Israeli boy and girl scouts; a flight by-pass of light civilian aircraft the last of which towed a banner reading "peace" in Arabic, English and Hebrew; and the release of doves after the bridge had been officially opened.

Foreign members of the Jordanian press were misidentified as Israelis by Jordanians and Israelis alike. In the jovial atmosphere two Jordanians photographed themselves alongside the "foreign" ones. Realising their mistake they left disappointed to find someone more authentic, while Israelis continued their camera clicking uncaring that these foreign reporters were representative of Jordan in name and sentiment but obviously not in nationality.

Having been bedecked with the third press tag of the day the media boarded buses bound for Lake Tiberias.

All the while hundreds of children waved Jordanian and Israeli flags in the streets outside the centre in anticipation for first public visit of King Hussein to the Jewish state.

Excluding the significance of the ratified peace documents, it was a pleasant outing for those who had never been able to enter Israel before. Some even managed a brief excursion to the shops and despite the noticeable greater cost, indulged in a few goodies for the journey home.

## Arafat gives Hamas role in PLO courts

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, in a sign of cooperation with the rival Hamas group, has given it two seats on the bench of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-run religious courts in Gaza and the West Bank, PLO officials said on Friday.

"Yes, we do have political differences, but we remain one people and we can't accept distancing ourselves from our people," said Sheikh Hamed Al Bitawi, accepting his appointment to the West Bank court.

Sheikh Bitawi said he was close to the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas.

Sheikh M. M. Salameh, who describes himself as an Islamic leader close to Hamas, was appointed to the bench of the religious court in Palestinian-ruled Gaza. He was unavailable for comment but Sheikh Bitawi told Reuters that Sheikh Salameh had accepted the job.

Religious courts deal with land disputes, marriages, divorces, and most other religious and legal matters.

PLO officials said Mr. Arafat and leaders of Hamas in the West Bank and Gaza have held several meetings to formulate a common political agenda and to lay the ground for cooperation.

A committee made up of Mr. Arafat's Fatah faction and Hamas leaders were preparing for a large gathering of all groups, opponents and proponents of the peace process in Gaza, the officials said.

The meeting, headed by Mr. Arafat, would set the guidelines for cooperation between the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and Islamic militants opposed to his peace deal with Israel.

Despite Israeli pressure on Mr. Arafat to clamp down on

Hamas after a series of guerrilla attacks, he has opted to try to contain the group by incorporating it in the self-rule system.

Sheikh Bitawi said despite the appointment "we will continue to voice our position very frankly — our conviction is that these negotiations (with Israel) are a disaster."

In another development, the Israeli daily *Maariv* said Mr. Arafat was trying to bring a 40-year-old descendant of Izzedine Al Qassam, leader of 1930s Islamic movement, to the West Bank court.

Sheikh Bitawi said he was close to the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas.

He is the grandson of a martyred and national leader. His family is in the West Bank," said Samir Ghoshe, minister of labour in the Palestinian National Authority. "I think he has the right to come back to his homeland."

Qassam, who fought the British colonial rulers and Jewish immigrants, was killed in an ambush in 1935 and is now buried near the city of Haifa. The military wing of Hamas was named after him.

Mr. Arafat is hoping to convince Al Qassam's grandson to establish an Islamic party in the Palestinian self-rule area that would unite all religious factions and help weaken opposition to the PLO-run autonomy, Maariv said.

A spokesman for Mr. Arafat, Nabil Abu Rudeineh, could not immediately confirm the report.

Mr. Ghoshe said that all opposition had to have a great role in the Palestinian authority, to make it more of a political coalition.

He said that Mr. Arafat "must make greater efforts to win the opposition."

## Army claims capture of Huambo

LISBON (AFP) — Angolan government troops on Friday seized control of the rebel stronghold of Huambo, ending fighting in the central highlands city, Angola's presidential spokesman said.

The government expects to go ahead Tuesday with the signing of a peace pact finalised with the rebel National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), the spokesman, Aldo-miro da Conceicao, told the Portuguese radio TSF.

"There are no more attacks against the city of Huambo, which is in the hands of government forces," Mr. Da Conceicao said.

The Luanda government plans to keep its negotiating team in the Zambian capital Lusaka, where the peace accord was finalised on Oct. 31, and wants it signed "as agreed in the Lusaka protocol," he added.

Top brass of the Angolan military were in Lusaka on Friday, waiting to negotiate with their UNITA counterparts, the government chief delegate, General Pedro Neto, said.

Gen. Neto told TSF that he would wait "for a reasonable amount of time" for the arrival of UNITA military chief to discuss the implementation of a planned ceasefire.

UNITA failed to send a team to the Zambian capital as scheduled on Thursday as government soldiers and aircraft laid siege to Huambo, and said it would not sign the peace pact unless the offensive was halted.

The accord was due to be formally signed by rebel leader Jonas Savimbi and Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos next Tuesday.

## COLUMN

### Hillary Clinton speaks of deep personal losses

LONDON (AP) — Hillary Clinton says deep personal losses she and President Bill Clinton have suffered in the past two years have diminished the significance of bad publicity and criticism, the BBC said Friday. In an interview conducted before this week's elections for broadcast Saturday, Mrs. Clinton speaks of mistakes made in the administration's health-care plan and of the Clintons' efforts to preserve their privacy, the BBC said. A BBC news release issued before the broadcast quoted Mrs. Clinton as saying: "In the last 20 months we have suffered the loss of my father and mother-in-law and the tragic death of our friend Vince Foster. That puts things into somewhat of a perspective. "Those were very deep personal losses to the president and me and stacked against those the adverse publicity. The partnership, the name-calling that seems, unfortunately, to be a part of American politics today, seem somewhat insignificant. It is, on occasion, hurtful." She is quoted as saying she did not feel angry when the health-care plan ran into trouble. "I couldn't get angry because that takes too much energy; what I wanted to understand is why it happened, what we did wrong. I mean I think we made mistakes and we learned a lot about how to present this issue and what the American people were ready for and what they were not ready for..." Mrs. Clinton said she and the president had worked very hard to preserve their privacy and that the American press had cooperated with their request for their daughter Chelsea to be given the opportunity to be a normal teenager," the BBC said.

"We have really worked hard at the time we have together as a couple and as a family," she is quoted as saying.

### Japan royals apologise for lost medal

TOKYO (R) — Japan's imperial household was forced to make an embarrassing public apology Friday after losing a medal of honour presented to Emperor Akihito by Spain's King Juan Carlos. The decoration, given to the emperor nine years ago, went astray last month when the usually efficient imperial household agency forgot to pack the medal for an official royal visit to Spain and tried to send it on later by air. The unaccompanied package went missing after being put on an Iberia Airlines flight to Madrid and the emperor, to the acute embarrassment of his entourage, had to borrow a substitute from the Spanish government for a state banquet.

"We feel very sorry for giving much trouble to His Majesty. We also expressed our regret to the Spanish government," said Shoichi Fujimori, the director general of the agency, after the loss of the medal was reported in the Japanese media. "We are making great efforts to find the medal in cooperation with the Spanish government," he said.

Palestinian leaders said the man, whose name was not immediately available, lived in Damascus and had been active in PLO politics.

"He is the grandson of a martyred and national leader. His family is in the West Bank," said Samir Ghoshe, minister of labour in the Palestinian National Authority.

"I think he has the right to come back to his homeland,"

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